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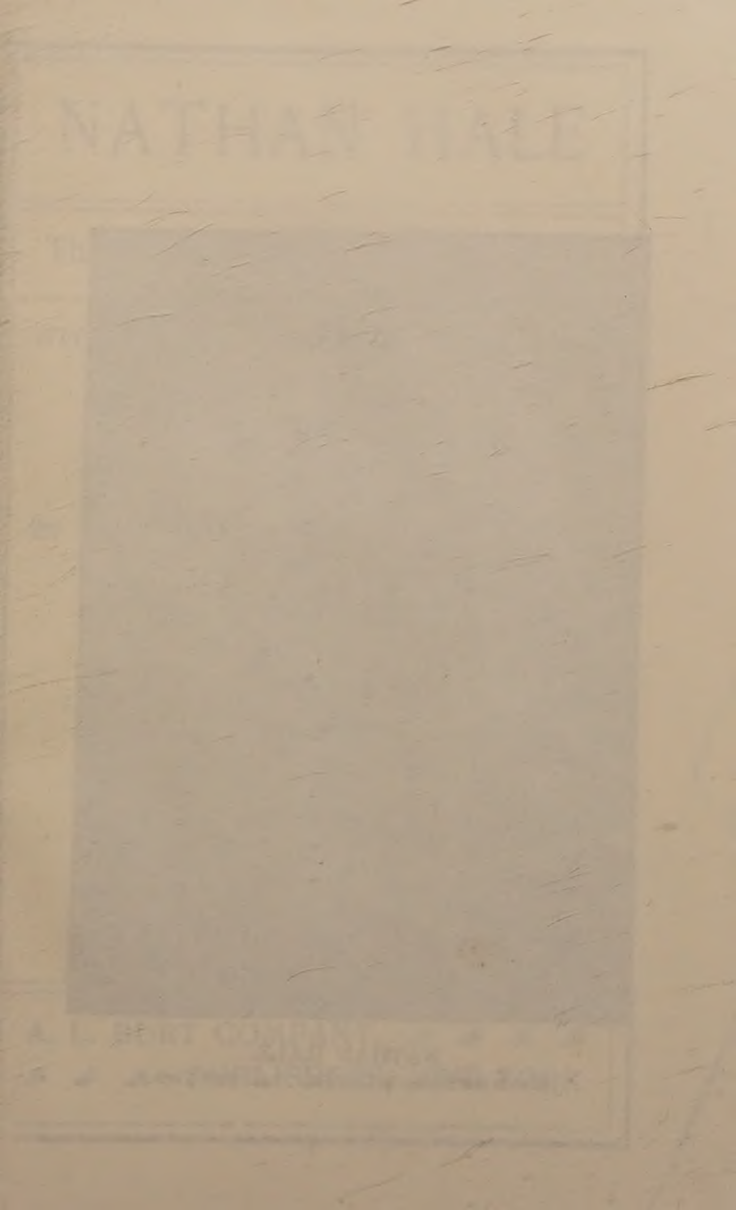

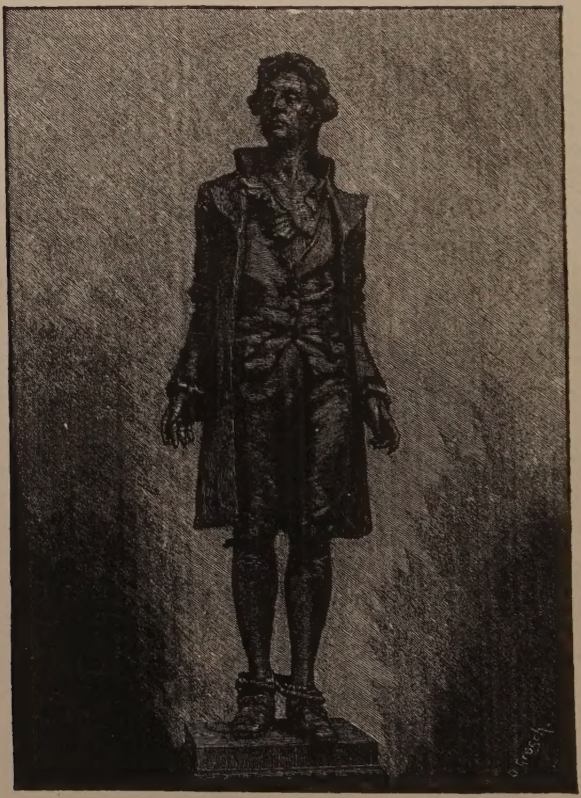

NATHAN HALE.

(From the Statue in City Hall Park, New York.)

NATHAN HALE

The Martyr-Hero of the Revolution

WITH A HALE GENEALOGY, HALE'S DIARY AND HIS LETTERS

By CHARLOTTE MOLYNEUX HOLLOWAY

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

A. L. BURT COMPANY,
PUBLISHERS, NEW YORK

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NATHAN HALE.

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CHAPTER I.

SELDOM had there been a more gloriously beautiful day even in the month of the poet's song, of flowers and sunshine, than was the 6th of June, 1755. The sun shone with a steady warmth agreeably tempered by the west wind which sent scurrying whiffs of perfume from the roses on its every breath and the birds sang in the leafy bowers with the joyous fullness and triumph of the spring, whose promise was beginning to mature into fulfillment. From the hour that the first pale tinge of pink streaked the gray sky, the thrifty New England

farmers had been busy in the fields, and though they silently drank in the elixir of the sparkling day, there was small converse about its beauty. But practical though they were when they paused to rest, now and then it was with deep enjoyment that they beheld the freshness and loveliness of the earth.

There were few more productive farms in Connecticut than that of Deacon Richard Hale of Coventry, and though he would have spurned anything that approached pride, he often felt that the Lord had been exceedingly good to him, for had he not blessed him in flock and children and made all to which he put his hand prosper?

His was indeed a fine farm, nobly set where it commanded a view of the country for miles around, and where its

well-tilled fields could be seen by those who often rode from the city to make visits or on pleasure bent. His men respected him and accorded him a certain measure of love, but he was a man who exacted everything due to him as he gave unto others all that was theirs. In the church he was a pillar, a man of sense and eminence, who spoke only when he had something to say and whose godliness was of the right flavor. In affairs of the body politic his counsel was also esteemed, and he had served in many offices of honor and settled many disputes which else had gone to the courts. But though all conceded his justness and merit few there were who could express for him that ready friendship which is at the service of the man of genial disposition.

Much of the sternness of his character was due to training and the belief that as grandson of a minister he should always preserve a demeanor and lead a life that should exemplify the teachings of his ancestors. That in his family his will was law has been proved by the stern insistence with which he followed his plan of having his son Nathan submit to his choice of a profession for him.

The deacon was out in the fields with his men this 6th of June, and though he was working as diligently as ever, it was noticeable that anxiety disturbed the usual serenity of his face, and he made frequent trips back to the house, returning from each with the same expression. He was bending over a furrow when a woman ran hastily from the kitchen down the long slope to the fields and

THE BIRTHPLACE OF NATHAN HALE, COVENTRY, CONN.

called to him breathlessly and joyously:

"You are a fortunate man, Deacon Hale, for your sixth son is so fine and lusty a boy that Elizabeth already pronounces him her finest child."

The deacon dropped his hoe and looked over his small brigade.

"The Lord be praised for the mother and the child. Let him be a worthy servant. You may leave off working this day and do as you will with your time."

As he turned to the house the dame, half-running at his side, queried:

"He will be named for you, won't he, deacon? It is time that one of your blood received your name."

The deacon shook his head.

"He shall be called after that righteous and patriotic man, my kinsman Nathan,

and I shall be well pleased if he have as high a sense of duty."

Well would it have been for him had he known that in Coventry, not the least among the villages of Connecticut, was ushered into the world on that peaceful June day, a soul so noble, so true, so filled with high purpose and resolve that the world was to marvel and acknowledge its grandeur and greatness. Perhaps it might have caused the stern heart to show its love more strongly had he known the future of that child now resting on the mother's breast.

For the childhood of Nathan Hale, though not in any sense strictly unhappy, was not as full of pleasure as that of other children. He was under the sway of the will which so thoroughly dominated his mother that in the twenty-

three years of their union she had never opposed Deacon Hale. Nevertheless, though gentle and yielding, her spirit was far from being weak. She was a woman of exceptionally fine character with a bent toward literature, an idealism in her composition strongly contrasting with her husband's intensely practical nature.

Elizabeth Strong came of a very good family, and when she married Deacon Hale she was a very beautiful girl of eighteen, whose character was tinged with thoughtfulness, gentle and steadfast, devoted to books, and though not as buxom as other maidens, one whom the many and fast pressing cares of married life did not overcome, but only developed. She believed most devoutly in the strictest observance of the Sabbath,

but often it sorely grieved her heart to have her husband repress her children's youthful joy, and where she could she modified his decrees. The deacon had long prayers at breakfast, dinner and supper and after the latter he required his household to be assembled in the great living room, where he read the Scriptures and had more prayers. Promptly to bed at 9 o'clock was the command and out of it about 4. He was an indefatigable worker, and it is related of him that one time when his men were piling hay upon a cart he thought they did not do it fast enough nor press down the load sufficiently, so he sprang to the top himself and worked with such energy that his cry: "More hay, more hay!" came so fast that it taxed them to keep up. But at length the overloaded pyra-

mid toppled, covering him completely. He jumped up, gasping and looking at their laughing faces, scrambled back and cried again: "More hay, more hay!"

At evening it might be expected that his tired frame succumbed readily to sleep. He was opposed to all kinds of games, fearing their after effect and forbade the boys to use the morris board, and in order that they might not evade his prohibition he used to sit with the candle in his grasp. But he soon fell asleep and the lads, Nathan included, brought the board and played by the light he held, one keeping watch against his waking.

CHAPTER II.

Young Nathan was not as strong in his early infancy as the promise of his birth foretold, and he naturally received more attention from his mother and Grandmother Strong, the latter an exceptionally fine character. They early perceived there was something more than common in this lad, and the grandmother set to work to cultivate his mind. It was a grateful relief to the mother, to whom new babes came so fast that there was no opportunity to give him all the attention she longed to bestow. Nevertheless, the women decided that it was only just that the lad be given advantages of a college education and

prepared for it. The father had no such idea. He intended the two elder boys should go to Yale and become ministers, but for Nathan he had different plans. However, the women were decided and he yielded on the condition that Nathan be a minister, too.

He was sent to study with Dr. Joseph Huntington, a member of the Norwich Huntington family, a man of great erudition, noble in character and sweet in disposition. It may be imagined that he took particular care of Nathan's education, for he was the pastor of the deacon's church, and he loved besides, with exceeding delight, a promising scholar, and he had in this boy one who studied most diligently.

But it must not be inferred that Nathan's zeal for his books caused him

to become a pale, studious lad, who pored over them incessantly. He was passionately fond of an outdoor life and became not only a proficient but a leader in all games of skill and strength. He was a general favorite, for he was the best fisher and hunter in the neighborhood, and often gave pleasure to others by fashioning for them rods and other sporting implements. In running, leaping, wrestling, in fact, all manly sports, he excelled and his unfailing good nature prevented envy. His mental development kept pace with his athletic, and he was ready for college at the age of sixteen and passed an examination that gave intense satisfaction to his reverend preceptor.

The change from the quiet country to the life, interest and stimulus of New

Haven was a great one for the boy. His beloved, gentle mother had passed away in his twelfth year, having borne twelve children, ten of whom were living at her death. His father, according to the custom of the times had soon remarried, for it was a necessity that he have some one to manage his household. His second wife was the Widow Adams, and he added her brood of children to his own and cared for them with equal conscientiousness. Though Nathan had respect and affection for his stepmother, he soon felt more love for her children, and the advent of this new element soon made a change in the household. It became brighter and there was, despite the deacon, a perceptible lessening of strict control.

Not that his authority was overthrown.

There was too strict bringing up in the Adams family to countenance anything that would savor of an open revolt, but as in many cases the influence of the second wife was more inclined to leniency than that of the first, although she was, too, a very devout and God-fearing woman. The introduction of so many new inmates made the farmhouse a place of greater attraction, and particularly did the Hale children like the brightness and good nature of their stepbrothers and sisters.

It was evident from the first that the second son of the deacon, John, was decidedly impressed by the good looks and qualities of Sarah Adams, and his courtship having the full sanction of both parents, he was married to her December 19, 1771, when he was in his twenty-

fourth year. But however winsome and lovable the nature of Sarah, she was never the popular favorite that her sister Alice became. Alice was very beautiful, of petite and exquisite figure, rather below the middle stature, with a light, elastic walk, a fine, open, intellectual countenance, with regular features and a brow that inspired the most enthusiastic admiration in all who beheld her. She had large hazel eyes, mild, sweet, peculiarly attractive, and filling those upon whom they rested with a sense of the loftiness and yet thoroughly social character of their owner. Her hair was beautifully black and glossy and worn in natural ringlets, while her arms and neck would have served as models for a sculptor. Apart from her rare personal charms she was endowed with a mind of

great depth and penetration, an intellect which made her society eagerly sought by men like President Dwight of Yale and the great circle of educated and cultured men and women whom she drew about her when she lived in Hartford.

It may readily be perceived that there would be attraction between two such natures, and as Alice was nearly Nathan's own age, being but two years his junior, they often pursued their sports and studies together; for Alice Adams had the same love of study and easily mastered matters deemed far too deep for woman's brain.

When he went to Yale he had won from her a promise to write to him frequently and that she fulfilled the promise there is no doubt. Her letters were among the dearly cherished possessions

which the brute Cunningham so ruthlessly tore to pieces when the hero fell into his tender clutches. She always saved Nathan's to her, though at the period of her marriage to Ripley she must have destroyed those earlier ones.

CHAPTER III.

While at college, Nathan gratified his love of athletics by taking a greater interest in the games of the day and his record as the breaker of all previous ones in jumping was long cherished in the college. He aroused all whom he met to the same enthusiasm as himself, almost by the force of his personal magnetism. He made the Linonian Society a new force and sustained his part in it with great credit. Though he was the general favorite in college, there were, of course, certain men whom he drew into the bonds of close intimacy. Among these were Benjamin Tallmadge, Roger

Alden, John P. Wyllis, Thomas Mead, Elihu Marvin, William Robinson and Ezra Samson. Indeed, the number of his college friendships might include all who knew him and were won by the good nature, modesty, willingness to admit the worth in others' opinions while maintaining his own, that characterized him. Among the faculty he was as great a favorite, for he had won their hearts by his deference to superior knowledge, his eagerness to learn, his manly sincerity and deep feeling and the remarkable nature of his intellect.

New Haven society welcomed him to its homes with cordial hospitality, and he was there one of the most warmly sought and desired, and helped greatly by his suggestion and aid.

Despite all this he was a most prodi-

gious worker, always living up to his maxim, "A man ought never to lose a minute." Not content with standing high in his studies he persuaded his classmates to form an epistolary class, in which each exchanged letters, dealing with the topics of their studies, the questions of the day, and literature, and each was at liberty to criticise the other and argue whatever seemed to admit a controversy. The criticisms of Hale were always shown to be full of justice, fine discrimination and were given in a style which was astonishing for its ease and elegance. He was a very ready and fluent speaker, with a wonderful mastery of words and reasons, fond of logical argument and delighting in debate. It was this which made him think he would have a better success in another

vocation than that chosen by his father for him. He had a most impressive presence, a beautifully clear and musical voice, and the speeches which he made in the Linonian Society are preserved as models.

He made visits to his home and during the long vacation did not disdain to help his father in the fields. He became more and more in love with Alice and before his return, prior to his graduation told her this. She frankly responded to his affection, but it was left to the deacon's approval, which neither doubted would be forthcoming. To the grief and astonishment of all he peremptorily forbade them to think of the matter, insisted there should be no renewal of the subject after he dismissed it, chiding Nathan for such thoughts ere he left

school and declaring there should be no more marriages within the family, and that for the youth to marry at all till he had been some years a minister would be a mistake. Nothing his wife could do would alter his mind.

Nathan went back with a heavy heart. He did not specially care for the pulpit, for his sense of reverence was so deep that he believed unless he had a strong predilection for the career it would be wrong for him to enter upon it. Personally he rather inclined to the bar and the ready speech, sound reasoning and quick wit that were his well fitted him for that profession.

The graduating exercises of the class of 1773 were more than usually interesting and attracted a large number of ladies, for after taking part in a Latin

debate with Tallmadge, William Robinson and Ezra Samson, Nathan Hale was affirmative speaker on the question, "Whether the education of daughters be not, without any just reason, more neglected than that of sons," and he paid such glowing tributes to woman that his side won amid rapturous applause.

Honorably anxious to become self-supporting as soon as he could, he immediately accepted the offer of a school in East Haddam, which was then a far more important place than it has ever been since, and whose people, quiet and hospitable, found great delight in the society of the amiable and vivacious young master. But though he discharged his duties most diligently and faithfully and was heartily in love with the picturesque and beautiful surround-

ings, and his mind was captured by the Indian legends in which the town abounds, he was not content to remain within its circumscribed bounds, and he was constantly on the lookout for a more active and larger field.

He succeeded in 1773-74 in entering into correspondence with the proprietors of the Union Grammar School, New London. They had but recently erected a fine school structure on their principal street, standing where the present Crocker House has been erected. It was incorporated in October, 1774, by the General Assembly on the petition of the twelve proprietors who stated that they "had erected a commodious schoolhouse and for several years past had hired and supported a schoolmaster." It was their petition for incorporation which at-

tracted the notice of Hale and the information that the school would furnish a thorough English education, would be kept at a high grade, would teach Latin and was really a preparatory academy for college, stimulated him to gratify his student heart. The proprietors, on the other hand, were delighted to secure so fine a scholar and such a perfect gentleman; so a call was unanimously extended to him and he left East Haddam in the spring of 1774, and began his work in New London. His school numbered about seventy boys at seventy pounds a year, half being prepared for college; and he also had in the morning from 5 till 7 a class of young ladies who paid him six shillings apiece. He believed in making every moment of his time valuable and found a variety of employment.

Then there were some boys to whom he gave lessons outside of his school hours. In addition to his school work he spent much time in conducting scientific experiments, and a considerable portion of the money he earned in acquiring a library in the branches in which he was interested.

He found the social atmosphere of New London very much to his liking. He lived very simply, in accordance with his tastes rather than his income, which would be considered a fair one in those days. His clothing was always fitting to a gentleman in his position and he was neat to the verge of fastidiousness. In person he was remarkably handsome, being finely proportioned and of a very graceful and dignified bearing. He was five feet ten in height, with a broad, full

chest, a fine, nobly browed face with regular, intelligent features, large, penetrating blue eyes and an abundance of light brown hair. Passionately fond of athletic sports he soon won the hearty respect of the athletic youth of New London by his feats, the more as they were attempted in no spirit of bravado. Samuel Green, one of his pupils, was so impressed by the achievements of Hale that he preserved a record. He said that he would put his hand on a fence as high as his head and clear it easily in a bound, jump from the bottom of one empty hogshead over and into another and from the bottom of this over and down into a third and out of that like a cat. His face was remarkable for its combined expression of intelligence and good humor, dignity and ingenuousness.

He had marks on his forehead, where powder had flashed into the skin and a large hair mole in his neck, just where the knot came, had made his youthful companions often tell him he would be hanged.

With his quick discernment, swift perception of the humorous, delight in society, abundance of good suggestions and works, together with his steadfast and loyal friendship, it is no wonder that wherever he went he speedily became a center of admiration and love. With all his good fellowship there was a dignity and decision of character which never failed to impress all, and he had a sincere respect for religion which endeared him to those whose age, inclinations and occupation forbade participation in the gayeties of youth. Though he had made

no protestations of religion, no one was more prompt and constant in attendance on church nor more attentive a listener to discourses which it may be suspected often tired the intellect of the young man.

That he appreciated his new field can be gathered from his letters to his uncle and schoolmates. To the former, teaching in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, he wrote September 24, 1774:

"My own employment is at present the same that you have spent your days in. I have a school of thirty-two boys, about half Latin, the rest English. The salary allowed me is seventy pounds per annum. In addition to this I have kept during the summer a morning school between the hours of 5 and 7, of about twenty young ladies, for which I have received six shillings a scholar by the quarter. The people with whom I live are very

free and generous; many of them are gentlemen of sense and merit. They are desirous that I would continue and settle in the school, and propose a considerable increase of wages. I am much at a loss whether to accept their proposals. Your advice in this matter coming from an uncle and a man who has spent his life in the business, would, I think, be the best I could receive. A few lines on this subject, and also to acquaint me with the welfare of your family, if your leisure will permit, will be much to the satisfaction of your most dutiful nephew,

"NATHAN HALE."*

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* "Possessing genius, taste and ardor," writes Sparks "he became distinguished as a scholar, and endowed in an eminent degree with those graces and gifts of nature which add a charm to youthful excellence, he gained universal esteem and confidence. To high moral worth and irreproachable habits were joined gentleness of manner, an ingenuous disposition, and vigor of understanding. No young man of his years put forth a fairer promise of future usefulness and celebrity, the fortunes of none were fostered more sincerely by the generous good wishes of his associates or the hopes and encouraging presages of his superiors."

CHAPTER IV.

HALE's letters show the feeling that was entertained for him only they are very modest in the hinting of what his contemporaries so enthusiastically witnessed. In writing to his college mate, Roger Alden, from New London, May, 2, 1774, he said:

"I am at present in a school in New London. I think my situation preferable to what it was last winter. My school is by no means difficult to take care of—it consists of about thirty scholars, ten of whom are Latiners, and all but one of the rest are writers. I have a very convenient schoolhouse and

the people are kind and sociable. I promise myself some more satisfaction in writing and receiving letters from you than I have as yet had. I know of no stated communication, but without doubt opportunities will be much more frequent than while I was at Moodus."

Of course, it would have been singular if he had not written poetry, but the poetical effusions which his finely balanced brain sent out were generally in answer to rhymed messages from his friend, Tallmadge, then located at Wethersfield. His were always gently satirical and full of fun, and as far as poetry went quite as worthy the name as some which passes current to-day.*

* "Always employed about something," testifies Mrs. Lawrence, "he was ingenious and persevering." "When his head was not at work, his hands, were," says Stuart, whose beautiful and sympathetic "Life of Hale" was the means of calling general attention to

Hale's unceasing activity was source of wonder to all who knew him in New London, but he had need to keep both brain and hand at work to prevent the heart sickness which was his from manifesting itself. His nature was essentially noble, his mind calm and clear, and he knew the best antidote to the trouble which otherwise would have crushed him.

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his fine character and noble patriotism. During one of his college vacations he made a large and beautiful powder horn which was in the possession of William Roderic Lawrence, of Hartford, Connecticut, in 1856. He was the grandson of Mrs. Lawrence, Nathan's love, and received it from his father to whom it was given by Deacon Richard Hale. "He put a peculiar concentration and zest to everything he undertook. He used to say, in jest to the girls in the Coventry home that he could do everything but spin."

Col. Samuel Green, talking to Stuart of Hale said: "He was a man peculiarly engaging in his manners. These were mild and genteel. The scholars, old and young, were attached to him. They loved him for his tact and amiability. He was wholly without severity and had a wonderful control over boys. He was

In both Stuart's history and Lossing's accounts of Hale it is stated his dearly loved Alice did not marry till after his death when she wedded Eleazar Ripley, who left her a widow at the age of eighteen, with one child. She subsequently married, after the death of her child, William Lawrence, of Hartford, Connecticut. She lived in this city till her death, September 4, 1845, aged eighty-eight.

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sprightly, ardent, and steady, had a fine moral character and was respected highly by all his acquaintances. The school he taught was owned by the first gentlemen in New London, all of whom were exceedingly gratified by Hale's skill and assiduity." With this agrees the testimony of Mrs. Elizabeth Poole, of New London, who, as Miss Betsy Adams, was an inmate of the family with whom Hale lodged. "His capacity as a teacher and the mildness of his mode of instruction were highly appreciated both by parents and pupils. He was peculiarly free from the shadow of guile. His simple, unostentatious manner of imparting right views and feelings to less cultivated understanding was unsurpassed by that of any individual who at the period of her acquaintance with him or after, fell under her observation."

This latter is true, but Alice Adams was born in Canterbury, Connecticut, in 1757, and at the time of Nathan Hale's death was eighteen years old and a widow. Further than this she was his espoused wife as could have been easily seen if the letters which passed between them had been preserved. But the miniature and letters of Hale which she possessed unaccountably disappeared, and we know that the brute Cunningham destroyed all that Nathan had with him at the time he fell into his hands. The camp book which she had and his camp basket were preserved.

Despite the fact that Alice Adams was driven to marry Elijah, not as erroneously stated, Eleazar, Ripley, by her stepfather, Deacon Hale, her heart was true to her first and only love always

during her life, for as her spirit was passing away she murmured: "Write to Nathan."

Richard Hale saw with pride the promising career of the son who seemed likely to make the name illustrious, and he firmly resolved that no boyish love should be permitted to stand in the way. He sincerely believed that his action was for the best and his conscience assured him that the wisdom of a father could best be relied upon to promote the interests of a son.

Fond as he was of his stepdaughter, Alice, and he really was fond of her, and as much as his own child's were her interests in his heart, he decided she would gain nothing if the attachment she had formed for Nathan were permitted to deepen. He was sure it was best for her

to marry some one who could at the beginning support her in decent pride and whose advance would not be retarded by marriage. Also he had some notion, never clearly explained, that it was better not to have any more marriages in a family, which was under the same roof tree. He had peremptorily forbidden Nathan and Alice to think of marriage with his consent; now he interdicted all communication.

In those days and to a gentle, loving spirit, such as Alice's, the idea of defiance to parental will was utterly abhorrent. The youth or maiden who could do so would have been looked upon as flying in the face of Divine Providence, and deserving of some swift and certain retribution. Therefore, when he selected from her numerous admirers one Elijah

Ripley, a merchant of Coventry, irreproachable in habits and promising in business, and commanded Alice to look upon him with favor, she did not dare to do more than utter a remonstrance and reiterate her love. But she was convinced by his arguments that love for Nathan and pride in his progress demanded that she be no bar, therefore she yielded to her stepfather's commands and importunities and agreed to place what was thought would be a most effectual barrier between them.

She was not seventeen. Her mother took the same view as her husband. She thought it would be an aid to Hale and she smothered her own feelings and married Ripley in December, 1773.

Whatever her feelings she made him a most dutiful wife, but the union was not

long, for in little more than a year, Ripley was dead, and the young widow and her infant child returned to the shelter of the Hale homestead.

Alice Ripley was no longer a child. To her had come woman's intuition and knowledge, and she knew that Nathan was the only person whom she could ever love. She saw how futile it was to hope to take his image from her heart, and she believed that he was still true to the Alice he had loved. She was no longer under obligation to obey, and she wrote to him fully and frankly.

CHAPTER V.

But to go back to Hale. It must be imagined what a bitter blow was the deacon's decision. He did not submit without a protest. He wrote and explained that it would not be many years before he would be able to take care of a wife. He did not ask for immediate marriage, indeed, the incentive that Alice would be his only when he had shown that he was able to receive her would be the greatest help to him. He even got his uncle to write to his father, saying that the young man would work the better if he knew the reward of a wife was to be his. But this was not what the deacon wanted.

Nothing would change his mind. He wrote lengthily on the need of obeying parents and forbidding Nathan to come home. And he hurried matters.

Nathan was not present at the wedding. It would have been impossible for him to have concealed his contempt for Ripley, who was unmanly enough to marry one who, as he knew, did not love him. And he was not strong enough to pierce his own heart.

For Alice he entertained only the most sincere compassion and profound pity after the first sharp pang of torture. He knew in his very soul that she loved him and his knowledge of her nature told him one of the greatest miseries of her situation was the endeavor to comply with her duty to Ripley.

Alice, he reasoned, with that sublime

overlooking of self which exalted him above personal sorrow, had a far harder part than he, for she had not the occupation or chance to let other interests divert her thoughts which he had. Often as he sat in the schoolroom after his pupils were dismissed his thoughts must have gone to Coventry to Alice, not with an unrighteous love, but in picturing of the life that was hers.

Outwardly there was no apparent change in him. His classmates who knew of his attachment received no expressions of repining or regret. He knew his duty, and he was prepared to do it with stoical firmness. His father, who had so thwarted his hopes, received the same dutiful letters as of yore, though they must have shown a lack of the warmth of hopeful love.

The people of New London, fortunately, knew nothing of his story. That was a great help to him and after the first stunning blow his practical, healthy nature forbade anything of the misanthrope and for this as well as other reasons he took active part in society.

Very agreeable it was. New London in the days preceding the Revolution was a place of great importance, then as now important as a place of communication between the eastern and middle colonies, and then, as not now, the resort of ships of all nations. It had an immense coast trade and intercourse with the South and imports and exports to Europe. The wharves were flanked by rows of warehouses. The harbor was always animated, and the merchants operated on a scale of magnitude few have at-

tempted since. The importance of the place was duly recognized by the British, as was also the independent spirit of its inhabitants. They had taken an active interest in the fight in behalf of freedom from the day they had received the famous resolutions of the Boston aldermen not to use certain articles made in England. A copy had been forwarded to New London, and it was laid before the town, December 28, and referred to a committee of fifteen, comprising among others Gurdon Saltonstall, Richard Law, and Nathaniel Shaw. The committee had drawn up a subscription which was generally signed and all the articles interdicted in the Boston resolutions were scrupulously avoided.

In December, 1770, the town had sent as delegates to the grand convention of

the colony, held in New Haven, Gurdon Saltonstall, William Hillhouse, Nathaniel Shaw, Jr, and William Manwaring, and in June, 1774, when the edict of Parliament shutting up the port of Boston took effect, New London was ablaze with patriotic indignation.

The *Connecticut Gazette*, the newspaper published by the Greens, had been active in stimulating the fire of liberty in the hearts of its inhabitants; indeed, it was the boldest in Connecticut in its utterances, and the first in the colonies to publish the immortal and prophetic speech of noble Colonel Barre, whose designation of the Americans as "Sons of Liberty" gave to the colonists a fitting name for the bands which did such noble missionary service in the exciting days just antedating the Revolution.

By the impassioned eloquence and strong argument of the many articles contributed to it by Stephen Johnson of Lyme, a minister of God, it had been doing much to make the people undertake their duty. When the title "Sons of Liberty" was published in the *Gazette*, there was at once a society formed in New London and Windham counties, and when the odious Stamp Act was attempted to be put into force, it was they who marched to Hartford and compelled the agent to resign.

On the 27th of June, 1774, a town meeting was held, with Richard Law in the chair, and a committee of five appointed to correspond with other towns and see that all stood by each other and adhered to the cause of liberty. In December, to the committee, Richard Law, Gurdon

Saltonstall, Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., Samuel Parsons, were added John Deshon and William Coit and a committee of inspection was appointed to take care that the acts of the Continental Congress held in Philadelphia, September 5, 1774, be absolutely and *bona fide* adhered to.

The New Londoners had early determined to buy no tea, but take Labrador tea, made from the *Ceanothus Americanus* instead, but some salesmen having received consignments from Great Britain, a council was called of the boldest and most patriotic spirits in the town and the tea was taken from them, the zealous adding their own private stores and a grand bonfire was made on the parade in the winter of '73–74. There was a determined effort to do without everything made in the Mother Country,

and at all the parties, "liberty parties" they were called, all the ribbons, flowers and fabrics of British manufacture were discarded completely.

To this hotbed of patriotism young Hale had come, and be sure that ardent spirit, by inclination and tradition and inheritance inclined to liberty, was at once fired with zeal, and he became one of the most interested in the work of making the whole town patriotic to the core.

It was not as easy a task as might be imagined, for there were many loyalists in New London, some of them among the wealthiest families, and they were incessant in their urging that things be conducted with moderation and the Mother Country be permitted every opportunity to adjust the difficulties. But

the larger number of the leading families were in favor of liberty, such as the Mumfords, Manwarings, Shaws, Laws, Coits, Deshons, Prentices, Chapmans, Parsons, Hillhouse and Green, the printer, whose paper, the *Connecticut Gazette*, was foremost in the work of stirring up the colony. Hale was a welcome addition to the young people's gatherings, and while he was always ready to form one of any gathering, and entered fully into the spirit of the most festive, he was equally a favorite with the elders; for his deference and the maturity of his mind caused him to be consulted, and his ease and clearness of utterance, the happy ability to say exactly what was needed at the right time, rendered him invaluable in the debates which were constantly arising.

CHAPTER VI.

That Hale would have needed little urging to do what he conceived to be his duty, the manner in which he bowed to his father's decision respecting Alice Adams shows. But when the sentiment of patriotism was roused, there was no place where it could be fanned to a nobler fire than in the old home of Winthrop, who had succeeded in obtaining from Charles the Second the most liberal charter granted to any of the colonies.

Next to his birthplace New London was admitted by all to be fullest of memories of Nathan Hale, therefore it is but fitting to devote a few pages to that town at the beginning of the great struggle for freedom

in which the martyr was to win his crown.

From the very beginning, New London had been distinguished in the colony for the free and independent spirit of her men They were bold, adventurous and litigious, preferring to spend any amount of money rather than submit to a decision that they thought unjust.

The records of the General Court are filled with references to the demands, complaints and suggestions that came from New London, and in all things it was regarded as both enterprising and fully aware of its own importance.

And in all the summons issued for troops for the aid of the colonies, there never had been from any more eager and hearty response than from this flourishing seaport.

Now that opportunity to show how they valued freedom was actually thrust on

them, the people were quick to seize it and were in a state of organization that would have greatly alarmed the officers of His Gracious Majesty George the Third, had they had the prevision to investigate the town and see with what sturdy, well-taught rebels his majesty's men would have to deal.

True, there was situated in the port a collector of customs and a controller, but both these men were either convinced that it was out of the question to think of disloyalty or they saw and kept their mouths discreetly sealed. Certain it is, that in the early part of the struggle neither Dr. Moffatt nor Duncan Stewart gave any information to enlighten the royal governor.

The state of fatuous complacency in which all the royal governors were till they were aroused too late to do much for their king is not exactly to be attributed to

their general stupidity as much as to the fact that they had only recently seen the splendid loyalty of the colonists in the fight with France for the possession of Canada, and they forgot that men who fight to free the continent from an odious and unbearable neighbor are likely to be fully as active in ridding themselves of odious and unbearable taskmasters.

Among the men who were instrumental in getting the people of New London aroused were some who were proprietors of the Union Grammar School which had engaged Hale's services. The names of the men who were of most influence in the town were Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., Richard Law, John Deshon, William Hillhouse and Thomas Mumford.

Of these some became national names, and of them all none was a greater worker for the cause than Nathaniel Shaw, Jr.

He possessed wealth, intelligence, public spirit and a business enterprise which made him one of the foremost merchants of the colonies.

He had correspondents in Boston, New York and Philadelphia as well as in London, and through them he was accurately informed of the trend of affairs. Besides this, he had a far-seeing mind, and from the laying of the tax on tea he saw that that there was to be something more than protest offered by the colonies.

It was a case where a child had outgrown the strict limitations of a too inconsiderate parent and would demand the right to act for itself.

Mr. Shaw lived in a style that made many men from other colonies when travelling come to his house to enjoy his hospitality, the pleasure of his converse and company. His home was the center of bountiful and

elegant good cheer and cordiality, and he entertained at one time and another nearly all the great men of the period.

The Shaw manor still stands in fine preservation in the original location on Bank street, and though the encroachments of trade have robbed it of some of its grand expanse of ground, there is yet surrounding it a spacious lawn and the very garden in which the famous tea-party was given to General Washington.

The house itself has a curious and notable history.

When, in the French and Indian war, the Acadians were driven from their land with such cruelty, a detachment was brought to New London and remained there over winter waiting for the spring to be transported to the Barbadoes.

The people of the town were very kind to the hapless prisoners and tried to give

them the consolation of little kindnesses and attentions.

Many of the Acadians learned to understand and appreciate the Americans, and some of them became very greatly attached and remained in New London; and of these were some who were anxious to work to relieve the tedium and misery of their exile. They were skilled artisans and possessed a high degree of taste, and soon found ready employment.

At that time the father of Nathaniel Shaw, a sea-captain who had amassed a fortune in trading between this country and Ireland, had purchased a great tract of land, part of which lay on a rocky bluff. This overlooked the water, and if he erected his home upon it, he could see his own ships riding at anchor.

This was a great inducement to the captain; but the labor of getting the stone

out and hewn into shape was tremendous. However, he was resolved on using that site, and the work was going on when the Acadians were brought to the town. Some of them asked for employment and set to work on the house.

Their skill was very great, and their taste and suggestions made a decided improvement. The manner in which the stones are laid is altogether different from that used in any houses of the time, and it is still a model of fine and exquisite workmanship.

But the old wives used to say that as the Acadians worked, their tears dropped into the mortar, and they prophesied that the fullness of years and continual tenure of the house would never be the lot of the male owners.

It is odd that there have been no male Shaws to hold the name since the time

of Nathaniel, though it is still in the family line, and the last of the family, Nathaniel Shaw Perkins and his sister, Miss Jane Richard Perkins, are its occupants to-day.

It is a grand old manor of gray stone, built from the rocks on which part of it stands, noble in outline and proportion, and with rooms that are models of colonial architecture. It is rich in treasures of the past and it is going to be scrupulously preserved. Here Washington, Greene and Lafayette have been guests with Jonathan Trumbull and others of the men who made the nation, and the mementoes of their visit and the room in which the commander-in-chief slept are kept intact and in almost the very same condition.

At the time of the Revolution, the elder Shaw and his wife had resigned the management of the home to Nathaniel and his

beautiful and stately wife, Lucretia. Both were famed for their kindness and hospitality as well as for their great love of their native town.

It was the gathering place of the young people; and here Hale met many of the demure maidens whom he taught in the morning, and learned that their reticence and shyness vanished in the drawing-room, and they were bright and happy girls with a fund of gay repartee and hearty, wholesome spirits.

Society was very gay in New London. It was a most socially disposed town, and the diary of Joshua Hempstead, who was a man of elegant tastes and social advantages, abounds with records of garden parties, teas and hunts and visits to Fisher's Island. The reputation of New London for festivity and good cheer was wide, and British officers were very glad to have their ships

anchor there while they took water and stores, and they had liberty to mingle with the charming young maidens and cordial young men. Their coming was just as eagerly looked for, and signal for a round of festivities like that in which Patty Hempstead figured when she cut up her grandfather's brocade coat to make a party gown.

But the young men who now gathered with their sisters and sweethearts in the Shaw manor, and partook of the graceful and cordial welcome of their hosts, had other thoughts than extending the hand of friendship to the British officers.

They were intensely interested in the contest between the sister colony, Massachusetts, and the king's officers, and there was sure to be either some one who had just come from Boston or Salem, or some correspondent of Mr. Shaw had sent the

latest news from Philadelphia and New York; and what was being done in Virginia and how its burgesses were writhing under the yoke was to be discussed in all its bearings.

The news-letter was eagerly read. The speeches were commented on and taken apart to find their hidden meaning, for in those days many spoke in parables which the patriot alone could interpret; the tidings from Parliament, the obstinacy of the king, the tyranny of North, the feeling of the English people, the friendly spirit of some and the speeches of Barre and Burke and Brougham, all these drew the men together to talk in low tone and with earnest face, while the women listened with glowing eyes and quickening pulse, ready to give to any who hesitated a glance of surprised reproach, and to smile encouragement on the bold speaker who did not

care who heard him say that he would work for justice to his land and colony.

Many of the girls were as ardent in the cause as their brothers, and they displayed all the enthusiasm of women who meant to show they would be true and brave and enduring. They had already spoken eloquently in their cheerful abandonment of the articles on which taxes were laid and their dispensing with their favorite beverage without a murmur.

All the summer of 1774 was portent with the murmurs of the coming conflict. Many were in active training. By day and by night the militia was practising under the direction of men who knew what might be expected. The French and Indian war was not a forgotten memory and its veterans drew hopeful auguries as they remembered how superior were the colonial to the British

troops and how the latter had depended on them for support and guidance.

The New London militia belonged to the Third Connecticut regiment under the old organization. Its field officers were: Dudley Saltonstall of New London, colonel; Jabez Huntington of Norwich, lieutenant colonel; and Samuel Parsons of Lyme, captain.

All these men met at the Shaw manor, and with them William Hillhouse, Richard Law, John Deshon, Governor Trumbull, Gurdon Saltonstall, Marvin Wait, Thomas Mumford and Nathan Hale. They had already banded themselves to stand together, though at that time Parsons was king's attorney for New London county.

Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., possessed the most wealth and the best means of obtaining general intelligence without exciting suspi-

cion, from the fact that as merchant he could have correspondents at so many ports.

He had used this liberty to good advantage, for, foreseeing the inevitable conflict in the end, he had been quietly preparing by securing supplies of powder from the French islands.

A few extracts from his letters will show how clearly he understood what the colony was to undergo.

Writing to P. Vandervoort, October 22, 1773, he said:

"In regard to the tea that is expected from England, I pray heartily that the colonies will not suffer any to be landed. The people with us are determined not to purchase any that comes in that way."

To Vandervoort, April 11, 1775:

"Matters seem to draw near where the longest sword must decide the controversy. Our General Assembly sits to-morrow and

I pray God Almighty to enlighten them to adopt such measures as shall be to the interest of America."

To Messrs. Wharton, Philadelphia, May 5, 1775 :

"I wrote to you by Col. Dyer and Mr. Green,our colony delegate to congress, desiring you to let them have what money they should have occasion for to the amount of four or five hundred pounds. I really do not know what plan to follow or what to do with my vessels."

To the selectmen of Boston, May 8,1775 :

"I have received from Peter Curtenius, treasurer of the committee in New York, 100 barrels of flour for the poor. He writes me he shall forward three hundred and fifty pounds in cash for the same."

To Messrs. James and Isaac Wharton, Philadelphia, Sept. 18, 1775 :

"I shall set out to-morrow for the camp

at Roxbury, and it is more than probable I shall come to Philadelphia on my return."

To an agent in Dominica:

"All our trade is now at an end, and God knows whether we will be able to ever carry it on again. No business now but preparation for war, ravaging villages, burning towns, etc."

In December, 1774, he represented to the government of the colony the desperate need of having powder for the fortifications of New London, and offered to send his own vessels for it, free of charge. The Assembly acted on his advice and sent him an order to obtain six hundred half-barrels at once. In July, 1775, he gave this brief order to the commander of a vessel fitting out for Hispaniola:

"Purchase gunpowder and return soon."

It was he who furnished the regiment of

Colonel Parsons with powder, balls and flints. In January, 1776, he wrote to his agent at Guadaloupe, William Constant, ordering him to purchase powder "to the amount of all the interest you have of mine in your hands. And make all despatch you can; for we shall want it soon."

When General Washington was in urgent need of powder and arms it was Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., who forwarded, July 22, 1776, three cases of arms and flints; and by John Keeny three more cases of arms and one chest of Continental cutlasses. July 31 he wrote Robert Morris, chairman of the secret committee of Congress, that he had received another supply of powder, 13,500 cwt. from Port au Prince.

CHAPTER VII.

NATHANIEL SHAW was the trusted friend of General Washington, whom he knew well before the latter was elevated to the command of the Continental army. He was also well acquainted and in constant correspondence with the leading men of the movement for freedom, and he had every opportunity to meet and prepare his fellow patriots, for the work that was to be done. Previous to the actual outbreak of hostilities he did immense service which was recognized by his appointment in July, 1776, as naval agent for the colonies. Governor Trumbull and the council of safety also decided there was none so fit to take care of the sick seamen.

He threw himself with enthusiasm into the labor, and was the valued aid of Trumbull and his chief resource in the times of stress and anxiety and literal lack of nearly everything which soon followed the beginning of the war.

He not only did what was assigned him, but was active in fitting out ships as privateers to cruise in the waters where rich British convoys might be seized.

There was the greatest good fortune for New London in this at first, and it was a branch of warfare peculiarly adapted to her, for so many of her sons were seafarers by inclination and occupation.

But though the American privateers did great damage to the British and secured some very valuable and helpful prizes, the increase in the number of British men-of-war made it hard to get out and in; and toward the close of the war, so many of the

New London vessels had been captured that private individuals were ruined in fortune. Still, some did very valiant service all through.

From New London was fitted out the first naval expedition under the authority of Congress in January, 1776.

This was composed of four vessels, the Andrea Doria, the Columbus, Alfred and Cabot: Eesek Hopkins of Rhode Island was commodore, and Dudley Saltonstall captain, with Elisha Hinman lieutenant, Peter Richards and Charles Bulkeley midshipmen, and eighty other New Londoners in the crew.

The commodore re-entered New London harbor in the following April with seventy prisoners, eighty-eight pieces of cannon and a large quantity of naval and military stores, having previously sent the heavy ordnance captured at New Providence

home in a sloop commanded by Captain Hinman.

All through the Revolution Nathaniel Shaw and his wife worked for their country with unfaltering zeal and hope and confidence in the darkest hour. They gave freely of time, patience and money and never allowed those about them to understand how hard it was to be hopeful and cheerful part of the time.

While the husband was engaged in the larger and masculine part of the campaign, the wife was directing her maids how to prepare food, jellies, provisions of all sorts and stocks of clothing for the soldiers.

And many a wife and mother whose husband and son were at the front were cared for and encouraged by Lucretia Shaw when the fight for existence grew too hard and the gnawing anxiety was undermining courage and strength.

They had a very hard time, these brave women of the Revolution. The men gone, they had to go out into the fields and work from sunrise to sunset and then try to care for their little ones and make their food and clothing in the night by the feeble light of the candle.

Provender was cut and vegetables raised and wood for the fire furnished by women who never before had attempted man's labor. Many went out in their husbands' boats and supplemented the return of the field by the plentiful fish of the sea. These were dark days in New London.

It required tact and much management to induce these stout-hearted proud women to let any one help them, and only one as persistent and true as Lucretia Shaw could have done it without offending their honest pride. But she did. She made them believe that she was really a more fortunate

sister willing to share with the other members of the family.

But when the prisoners were released from the terrible disease-breeding pens of the British prison ships and when one of these arks of pestilence sent forth its victims, Lucretia Shaw went down to the sea and ministered unto them, and in so doing caught a malignant fever from which she died, December 11, 1781.

Her death was a terrible blow to her husband. He was as one from whom the sun of life was cut off. He went about his work for his country with no diminution of result, but he seemed to be without that high sustaining power that had kept him without complaint at the most obstinate task.

He grew absent-minded and would walk along for hours without speaking. His only relaxation was the chase; but one day,

April 15, 1782, while out hunting, he accidentally discharged his own fowling-piece and was instantly killed.

Of the others, Richard Law was the son of a governor of Connecticut. He was born in Milford and educated at Yale. He was always distinguished for his keen sense of justice and his ability to see merit. He was quick to understand how great an addition New London had received in the young schoolmaster, and was from the first his friend.

Mr. Law had been nominated for Congress and, like Hillhouse, was a member of the governor's council. But just as he was getting ready to go to Congress he fell ill with the small-pox, and had the misfortune to be absent and unable to sign his name to the Declaration of Independence, a fact which gave him great regret all his life. He went to Congress in the follow-

ing October and was one of the most industrious and courageous members.

Like Nathaniel Shaw, William Hillhouse was a thorough patriot. He was of Irish ancestry, being the nephew of the Rev. James Hillhouse, who had been summoned from Ireland to take charge of the North Parish. He was a graduate of Yale, a member of the governor's council, a major of the second regiment of horse raised in the State. For many years after the Revolution he was chief judge of the county court and reckoned a "judge and statesman, honest, just and wise." He did great service all through the war.

Thomas Mumford belonged to Groton on the other side of the river, but had his business of merchant in New London. He was one of the eleven gentlemen who in April, 1776, formed the project of taking Ticonderoga and successfully carried it,

though without any authority from Congress.

He obtained the money for the expedition from the colonial treasury, but each man gave his individual note and the receipt for it. They were afterwards reimbursed by Congress.

He was one of the committee appointed to receive and sign emission of bills and also served as agent of the secret commitee of Congress.

John Deshon, at the time Hale came to New London was very prominent in the training of the young men who were to be such gallant soldiers of freedom, and in everything that tended to strengthen the resolve to resist oppression. He had made the young men understand how to handle arms, to man fortifications, and he was agent of the provincial government for forti-

fications and afterward its commissary in enlisting troops.

He was of French extraction, his father, Daniel Deschamps, corrupted to Deshon, was reared by Captain René Grignon of Norwich, and when his benefactor died the young man came to New London in 1715, and married Ruth Christophers.

Three of his sons were conspicuous for their bravery in the Revolution. One, Captain Daniel, was appointed commander of the brig Old Defence, and did excellent work before he was captured by the English; another, Richard, was in the army, and John worked in both army and navy for the cause.

These men were joined shoulder to shoulder in the war against unjust representation when Hale came among them. They had done all they could to induce their friends to take the same stand; and though some were

reluctant and many thought that it was wrong to disregard the strong bonds of race and feeling, as outrage after outrage was perpetrated in the name of law, the most of the hesitants came over and only those who were obstinately British held aloof.

It was fast taking hold on all that the only course open to patriots was armed resistance.

And they knew well that it was not when the actual need came that they should be getting ready. It was twice armed to be armed in time.

Consequently, besides the regular detachment permitted by the royal governor, there were a number of independent companies in the town.

But the work had to be done very cautiously, for it would not do to be too bold and alarm and warn the future enemy.

Besides Dr. Moffatt, his majesty's controller of customs, there was already in the town Duncan Stewart, the collector, and a number of English families of direct birth or so closely allied by marriage and trade as to be determined on adherence to the mother country.

Any of these would have been glad to give a warning that might have resulted in arrest and serious hindrance of the grand work.

Had this been attempted, however, there is not a particle of doubt that New London would not have burst the slight restraint of policy and the first shot would have been on Connecticut soil.

There were various ways of communicating employed, and it added zest to the act to know that a vigilant foe had to be outwitted.

The *Connecticut Gazette* was published in

New London by Timothy Green and was the most considerable paper in the colony and in New England. It was certainly uncommonly bold in all its utterances.

It had steadily, since 1767, opposed the laying of unjust duties, and it had been foremost in urging their being forcibly refused obedience.

It had contributors from every part of the State and from outside, and as they were all learned men and able to use the Roman heroes and the Roman history for facts, examples and quotations, they had an excellent cover, and many a spirited argument was presented under a semblance of discussion of the deed of Brutus or the encroachments of Cæsar on Roman rights.

As has been stated before, Stephen Johnson of Lyme, a minister who had come to America from Ireland with his heart throbbing with eager desire for freedom of

speech, made these journals ring through the land by his strong and cogent appeals and reasonings.

And others there were, if not as thrilling and outspoken as Johnson, fully as convincing by their deliberate speech and significant parable.

In these days, when we have abundance of newspapers, we do not really comprehend the immense worth that a paper had to the men of the past, who felt that it meant the dissemination of knowledge, the potent arouser of men to freedom, the one grand means of communicating with their whole countrymen.

The Connecticut Gazette was passed from hand to hand and its utterances were eagerly read and long commented on, and as men went to the field they turned over the sentences as they ploughed and felt new force and new enlightenment borne in on them.

By every means in its power this paper did all that it was possible to do to strengthen the resolve of New London to resist oppression.

It printed Warren's oration on the anniversary of the Boston massacre; it filled its poet's corner with the effusions of the poets of the day, who poured forth long stanzas of verse, a little halting, it may be, but true in patriotic ring.

The country had been strong in Sons of Liberty, and if the young schoolmaster did not go out with them his whole sympathies were in league with their bold resistance to the king's collectors.

In the secret conclaves at the Shaw manor, it can be assumed that he was trusted and listened to with the same attention his magnetic utterance and sincerity always inspired.

CHAPTER VIII.

HALE was always inclined to be a soldier. It was one of his pastimes to marshal his companions, and to have order was a passion with him. Everything which he had was always in the most exquisite array and cleanliness; and though he delighted in teaching, it was not with that whole-souled devotion that would have characterized the born teacher. He did well, for it was his maxim to do all things well. But if time had permitted there would have been resignation of the office of teacher for another calling.

This would not have been the army had not the fire of patriotism warmed his veins. He would have been a minister of the gos-

pel, an office for which his great learning and natural grace and vigor of speech entitled him to hope for success and in which he would have assuredly done great good. But his was a higher calling.

The progress of the companies openly and secretly drilling in New London was of great interest to him. He had calmly thought out all the sides of the question, and he knew it was only right for every young man to fight for his country.

When war came it was his intention to resign his school and go to the front as soon as he found there was actual need of men. He had acquainted his father with this resolve at the beginning of his sojourn in New London. He had fully and eloquently described his ideas of his duty.

He was really determined to go to the war, should it come, even if his father did not approve, for this was a case where pa-

rental authority had to be put aside. True, there was no cause why he was not legally his own master, but in those days age did not absolve the child from the deep reverence and absolute obedience exacted by the code of the day.

As soon as Alice Ripley had intimated that the love she entertained for him knew no diminution, Hale had responded to her with all the relief and exquisite happiness of a true and loyal heart. He had frankly explained to her that as much as ever did he love her, and both were content to wait till he was in a better position to marry.

That she would feel as he did on the matter of his duty to his country he was certain, and when both father and betrothed replied in unqualified approval he was greatly pleased.

Unfortunately the letters of neither are to be found, but there is substantial evi-

dence of the strong patriotism of the elder Hale.

But patriotism ran in the Hale blood. The kinsman for whom Nathan had been named had died fighting for the colonies and England at Louisburg, and he had heard often the story of his bravery and death. His brothers were full of the spirit and eager to work with and help the Sons of Liberty, and his father, despite his strict ideas of submission to the powers in authority, had all the Puritan hatred of oppres sion and would have gone to the field himself had he been able.

Not only did he quickly give his consent and blessing, but all through the long war sent liberally of his substance, instructing the girls of the family to furnish all the cloth they could spare for the soldiers' clothing. He used to sit outside and watch for soldiers to pass; and when one came along

he was brought into the homestead, made eat to repletion and after sleeping was sent on his way, laden with good things for the others. All through his section he was noted for his kindness of heart and thoughtful care for the poor. If a woman had a husband at the war, it was the deacon's care to see that she did not lack for firewood and loads of provisions from his farm.

All the time that these stirring events were leading up to the inevitable conclusion, no word of independence had been breathed. But there was doubtless many a brain to whom the image was no stranger. It was left for Nathan Hale to first give the tocsin to New London patriots.

It might have been thought, so zealously did he attend to the duties of his place, that his sole thought lay in forming the mind of his charges. His school was a model. The

discipline was firm, yet never did it relax into softness nor increase to harshness. All his boys were his devoted lovers, and some of them, even when the snow of years was on their heads, could not think of him without tears.

In the schoolroom he maintained an even deportment which did not allow anyone to guess he was more of a favorite than another. He was very tender to those who were dull, and he could speed the bright with a quiet word which sank deep into the heart and was spur to greater endeavor.

With all his sweetness he had a firmness and steadiness of resolve that never permitted him to lose control, and which added respect to the love that was lavishly bestowed upon him.

He was very fond of athletics and there was great interest in the sport after school hours. Master and pupil tried their skill

and he made many of his boys wonderfully good athletes and showed them how to perform jumps and go through motions that would have been thought impossible were it not for his help.

The girls, too, found in the young man a very willing and social helper in their festivities. He was ever of a very agreeable disposition, and now that the cloud of unhappiness had been lifted and he was certain that some day Alice would be his, he could enter with unrestrained zest into the frolics and merrymakings of the time.

Nor was he without exciting the tender friendship of a number of young ladies of the town and Norwich, for there is note of this in the correspondence of some, notably Miss Betsy Christophers; and no one could have been long with this amiable and talented young man without feeling for him more than the usual kindliness.

The later writers who have taken up Hale since they found that there was popular admiration of his great qualities have followed the finest as the truest and most original of the Hale books, Stuart's, in all details while endeavoring by a little variation to seem more original themselves. But hard study of all things relating to him show no reason to think, as does an author of this sort in his work of 1901, that Hale had other love than Alice Adams.

He had not. She was married in December, 1773, and a widow in a short time. He loved only her.

Life went very swiftly with him as with all the young patriots. Each month brought nearer the crisis. It was becoming plain to all who could see that there must be a war, and the only question was, when?

The patriots were now anxious to have it come, for they were straining every nerve

to be better prepared. But they saw how matters were shaping in Massachusetts, and the express from that State was awaited with great anxiety by the throng who nightly gathered down on the parade, under the shadow of King George's statue, and waited for the mail to come thundering up to Miner's Tavern and the carrier to tell his gossip, conjecture and information, and may-be distribute a few precious copies of The Boston Post.

Winter had worn away. The new life of spring was clothing everything with beauty and freshness, for nature ever goes on her way; and there was to be a baptism of blood that would rouse the world and from which should spring a nation the refuge and the hope of man. Though the trend of affairs was unmistakable, one thing that delayed rupture was the more politic course of the king's men in New London. They felt the

spirit of the town and dared not overstep their authority, nor, indeed, fully exercise it. It would not do to badger people thirsting for the opportunity to avow their real sentiments.

It was a particularly bright and beautiful day, succeeding that epoch-making 19th of April, 1775. The scholars were all in their places and the master was deep in one of his own calculations when there went through the assembly a sudden electric thrill, and all turned and looked instinctively toward the windows. One was open, and through it came the sound of eager, excited voices, a murmur that increased and seemed to grow deeper and greater in volume. The boys looked wistfully toward the master.

Hale had felt the same warning premonition, but the instinct of discipline was sufficient to hold him in his place though

every fiber ached to be out, and a part of the work he knew with prophetic insight had begun.

Some of the boys had arisen, expecting that the increasing excitement would be warrant in his eyes for their infraction of discipline, but he firmly bade them resume their places and finish their work.

Disappointedly they did so, thinking the long session would have to be served out to the end, but Nathan Hale was no martinet and he felt the promptings in these young breasts might come from higher cause than curiosity; so after the first lessons had been ended he dismissed the school and was soon on the street.

The schoolhouse door closed, his whole manner changed. He was a comrade of his boys, and he laughed a little as he saw the eager race toward the parade, where now were gathered a dense throng.

"I can give you a good run," he said to Richard Law, one of his pupils and the two, master and boy, ran with the odds in favor of the trained athlete till they reached the outskirts of the crowd. It was impossible to get in through the crowd which seemed to be pressing on the narrow space surrounding King George's statue, and as they gazed they saw that a man on horseback was the object of all the attention, and that he was hoarsely speaking. The dense throng was perfectly silent, and as Hale again and again tried to draw the attention of his neighbors his touch was unheeded, so tensely were all faculties strained to catch the least sound.

At length the murmuring voice ceased and a great shout went up. The spell was broken.

"I pray you, sir," said Hale anxiously to a portly old gentleman taking snuff in such

excitement that he spilled it all on his shirt ruffle, "tell me what it is all about?"

"Haven't you heard? 'Tis an express from Lexington, where the British have fallen on our brothers and sought to cut them in pieces!"

"It has come, then!" said Hale. "How——"

"Hush hush, he is going to speak—no, no, he is falling from his saddle; bear a hand, there, easy, easy, this way, this way; noble fellow, here, bring him into the tavern. Give him something to revive him. No wonder, such a ride."

These were the messages which, with numerous comments and commands, ran from lip to lip and the crowd parted and the limp figure of the messenger was borne to the tender services that awaited him.

Then a man mounted the long seat that stood under the statue of King George

and pointing at the scarlet-coated figure cried: "It is not a good color! That is the emblem of the bloody tyrant!"

Cheers with a few cries of disapproval burst from the throng and in the midst a clear, authoritative voice cried:

"Attention, friends! Let all who wish to form some plan to meet the circumstances the express from Lexington hath laid before us gather at Miner's Tavern to-night, when it will be discussed what is to be done to help our sister, brave Massachusetts, and keep ourselves from experiencing the hate and tyranny of the enemies of freedom."

"We will all be there!" shouted an able-lunged man, and the looks on other faces showed how clearly he expressed their sentiments. But some there were who moved off and seemed to be discussing the situation with grave apprehension.

CHAPTER IX.

When Hale was put in possession of the news brought by the man who had galloped into town, his horse covered with foam, his person thick with mud and had cried out his tidings as he reached the base of the statue, he felt a deep silence take hold upon him. He felt the moment had come that was to be a crucial one in his life. But he also saw at once his duty. The long expected had arrived, and it was only what the friends of freedom, the far-seeing ones who hoped that the breach between the colonies and the Mother Country could never be healed had desired, and

yet there was something so solemn, so tragic in the fact that the spilling of blood had forever divided them, that he walked a moment with bowed head, musing on the decrees of Providence.

He looked into the cloudless sky, he glanced at the fair earth and he felt how beautiful it was to put principle before all, and what a privilege was his to be able to strike a blow for the freedom he had learned to revere in studying the lives of the old heroes and the noble figures of history.

He slowly walked to his lodging and shut himself in with his thoughts, for he felt in the very exaltation of his spirit a strange sensation of almost acute pain.

He knew that he was deliberately going into a struggle that might again bereave him of all hope of happiness.

He had unusual clearness of vision, and he felt that it would be no fight of a few months, but a long and tedious war, and how could he hope to keep Alice waiting all this time?

It would be impossible for another than he to understand the battle he fought in his soul.

The magnitude, the grandeur, the public spirit of Nathan Hale have been fully dwelt on; but have we measured the extent of his self-abnegation? Do we know the fullness of experience, hard and bitter, crowded into that brief life of twenty-one years? Why, at twenty one stands on the threshold of achievement, as it were, and here was one who had run the full gamut of human emotions!

The sacrifice of Nathan Hale can only

be understood by comprehending that which he voluntarily resigned for his country. The breadth and depth of his intellect, his unswerving regard for right, his vivacious and sprightly character, his love of letters and poesy have been chronicled by his college president, his fellows at Yale, his pupils at New London, who, seventy years later, could not mention him without a quivering lip, and by his comrades in the army. Beneath that frank, modest, genial and ingenuous exterior was a soul as lofty, as heroic, as pure, as capable of self-abnegation, as any martyr of sacred writ.

Youth is ardent, impetuous, generous; it longs for fame, it scorns restraint, despises danger. It is not to be marveled at that it rushes to the breach and offers its breast to the enemy's steel. We ad-

mire its bravery and sing its deeds, but in our secret souls we think that it is easier to give a life that has known not the joys of living than the full existence of one loved and loving.

Hale's young heart had thrilled responsive to another love than freedom's; that soul had felt a deeper anguish than often falls to the lot of men. The love of man for God is the instinctive yearning of the separated atom of infinity for reunion; the love of man for his country brings the loftiest attributes of the finite under the directing force of the infinite; the love of man for woman, if it be worthy of the name of love, is the call of soul to soul, the obedience of the created to the noblest behest of the Creator, the essence of divinity and humanity, a force that is immeasurable, a power that

has lifted men to Heaven or whose baffled madness has driven them to lowest depths of despair. Yes, it is indeed easier to risk a life that knows not love or holds not love, for it is like casting aside a priceless volume in ignorance of the treasures in its unopened pages. The heart that has not loved is unawakened, the life that has felt not the bliss or agony of love is a life unlived. True love is essentially noble; it stimulates a man to glorious ambition, to marvelous endurance, it nerves him to meet death for it is always directed by the voice of consience. It was with such a love that Nathan Hale loved, it was with such a love he went to battle for his country, for it taught him that not ambition, nor the world nor passion, should still the voice of duty.

Through the throng gathered at Miner's Tavern, that night, there pushed a supple and erect figure before which all gave way, for, from the resolute eyes and on the pale, clear cut features shone an expression of such high and consecrated purpose that it seemed to many that they had seen something of the inspiration that illumined the countenances of the prophets of old. The Honorable Richard Law had left the chair to make a brief and ringing speech and there was the silence of approval too deep for outburst when Hale asked to be recognized. He ascended the platform and faced that throng and then from his very soul poured that impassioned, moving tide of eloquence that made the men long to be in arms, the women forget their natural reluctance to part with their

dear ones, and those who had come with their infants in their arms raised them on high that they might see the young speaker. He concluded his soul stirring oration with:

"Let us not lay down our arms till we have gained independence!"

"Independence!" It was a new word. It thrilled men's souls, it lighted the fire of liberty and the flame burned quenchless through the disaster and discouragement that bore so heavily at first. It was the touchstone. "Independence!" The thought, not crystalized in men's minds was here given expression. The meeting broke up all animated with the most sincere patriotism, and as hundreds thronged around Hale others discussed the chances of establishing that which he had breathed to them. No more

compromise, no more suing. Independence was the object hereafter.

When Hale returned to his room he thought clearly on the situation, and he knew that he had done what was right. He asked for permission to go with the two companies that were starting for Massachusetts on the morrow and at daybreak they were on the march. They could do nothing but show their sympathy, and after remaining with them a few days he returned before the battle of Bunker Hill in which the New London companies took part, and resigned his position in the following letter:

"GENTLEMEN: Having received information that a place is allotted me in the army, and being inclined, as I hope, for good reasons, to accept it, I am constrained to ask as a favor that which

scarce anything else would have induced me to, which is, to be excused from keeping your school any longer. For the purpose of conversing upon this and of procuring another master, some of your number think it best there should be a general meeting of the proprietors. The time talked of for holding it is 6 o'clock this afternoon, at the school-house. The year for which I engaged will expire within a fortnight, so that my quitting a few days sooner, will, I hope, subject you to no great inconvenience.

"School-keeping is a business of which I was always fond, but since my residence in this town everything has conspire to render it more agreeable. I have thought much of never quitting it but with my life, but at present there seems an opportunity for more extended public service.

"The kindness expressed to me by the people of the place, but especially the proprietors of the school, will always be gratefully remembered by,

gentlemen, with respect, your humble servant, NATHAN HALE.

"Friday, July 7, 1775. To John Winthrop, Esq., Richard Law, Esq., &c., &c."

The company to which Hale was attached was under the immediate command of Major John Latimer. It was part of a regiment ordered by the General Assembly in 1775, for home defense and the defense of the country at large, and until placed under the general-in-chief of the Continental Army, remained subject to the orders of the Connecticut Council of Safety:

John Latimer, major; Nathan Hale, captain after September 1; John Belcher, lieutenant; Joseph Hilliard, lieutenant; Alpheus Chapman, ensign; George Hurlburt, sergeant; Joseph Page,

sergeant; Reuben Hewitt, sergeant; Ezra Bushnell, sergeant; Stephen Prentice, corporal till September 1, then sergeant; Joshua Raymond, corporal; Abraham Avery, corporal; Henry Hilliard, corporal; Zebulon Cheeseborough, corporal; Rammeton Sears, drummer; Robert Latimer, fifer; Robert Latimer, Jr., fifer.

Men in company: William Bacon, Christopher Beebe, Amos Butler, Joseph Brown, David Baldwin, Richard Booge, Charles Brown, Jonathan Bowers, Asa Baldwine, Guy Beckwith, William Carver, James Comstock, Benjamin Comstock, Jr., Simeon Cobb, Fairbanks Church, John Chappell, Benjamin Cheeseborough, Caleb Couts, Reuben Cheamks, George Chunks, Peter Cheeseborough, Edward Clark, James Dennis,

John Dean, John Dennis, Christopher Dean, Enos Greenfield, David Hillhouse, George Habes, Peter Holt, Thomas Hiscox, Elisha Hancock, Elisha Johnson, Joseph Lovatt, David McDowell, Abel Minard, Jabez Minard, Lawrence Martin, Isaac Hammon, Enos Nero, Sias Pawhig, James Ward, John Holmes, William Hatch, Amos Shaw, John Patton, Samuel Woodward, Joseph Peters, Samuel Hix, Jared Stephens, Daniel Talbot, Christopher Woodbridge, Ichabod Young, Jeremiah Dodge.

Seventy-one, including the officers, enlisted in July, and three in August. Three died, Corporal Prentice, November 22, 1775; William Hatch, November 27, and Jonathan Bowers, December 2, 1775. In New York the company was augmented to ninety.

August 3 it was stationed with Captain Shipman's at New London to defend the town from an attack of the British men-of-war, perilously near, and regular watch and guards were kept about the camp. The soldiers were taught all that belonged to soldier life, discipline and instruction being a passion with Hale. On September 4, rumors of British attacks were so frequent and possible that the Council ordered the company to make such intrenchments and fortifications as were needed to thoroughly defend the town, but on the 24th, the company in response to the demand of Washington that all troops raised in Connecticut should be sent to him, was ordered to march immediately to the camp near Boston.

Hale was then two and a half months

attached to the army. He received forty-eight pounds, fifty shillings of enlistment money and sixpence a day as billeting money, all provided out of the Continental stores.

From September 28, 1775, till April, 1776, the Connecticut troops were in the vicinity of Boston, Hale all the time training and exercising his company till it was noted for its proficiency and the attachment of its members to its captain. Washington personally complimented him on the admirable skill of his men, and when the latter, anxious for the pay which was so long withheld, were mutinous and about to return home, he pleaded with them so eloquently and so generously relinquished all his own pay and his private means that, not withstanding the hardships that soon came,

not a murmur was heard from Hale's company afterward, and it was always ready to take a foremost place in danger.

Its station was, indeed, a very perilous and arduous one, for it did picket duty in the most advanced position, where the enemy was continually making sorties and frequent encounters and repulses evidenced the bravery and diligence of the men.

It was for this reason that Hale and some of the members were promptly granted furloughs when he asked for them and he set out in the winter to make a visit to his home and his dearly beloved Alice. He has embodied in his diary some of his difficulties on the way, but there is nothing of the home life and the conversation with his betrothed, for he was peculiarly delicate in writing or

talking of what he held so sacred. On his way back he stopped awhile in New Haven and called on his numerous friends. While in the house of a particularly dear one he disclosed the fact that he had received a commission as captain, and said: "*Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori.*" Telling of this visit, the friend, a nautical officer in the Revolution, said:

"These were some of the last expressions I heard fall from his lips. After he had left the house my father said: 'That man is a diamond of the first water, calculated to excel in any station he assumes. He is a gentleman and a scholar, and last, though not least, of his qualifications, a Christian.' "

Hale was indeed the latter. His servant, Asher Wright, testifies that he was

a praying man and never undertook anything without first spending some time in prayer. "When I was ill," said this deeply sorrowing friend and attendant, "he prayed with me and I know that when his first waiter was ill, he prayed daily with him. He recovered, but his father came after him, and Captain Hale was a mind I should take his place. And I did and remained with him till he went onto Long Island."

Others than Asher Wright loved Hale, but none with more devoted, enduring affection. He exulted in the noble qualities of his mind and heart, in his gentleness and firmness and in his personal beauty and prowess. In the pride he took in attending to Hale's belongings he minutely noted the garb in which he last saw him and said:

"He had on a frock of white linen, fringed, such as officers used to wear. He was too good looking to go so. He could not deceive. Some scrubby fellow ought to have gone—Captain Hale went away—was gone about a fortnight before I knew what became of him. When he left us he told me he had got to be gone awhile, and wanted that I should take care of his things, and if the army moved before his return to have them moved too. When he went away he did not tell me where he was going."

Wright took tender care of Hale's effects and to that it was due that his diary, books, and camp basket and camp book were returned to his friends. When he heard of Hale's death his grief was pitiable to behold, and he gave way

to it so unreservedly that his intellect was impaired. Mindful of his master's last request, he sought to keep Hale's effects intact and when the army was moving from New York, though he had great difficulty in finding a conveyance for Hale's property and came near being taken prisoner by the British, he often said he would rather have been captured than save himself by abandoning them.

The fate of Hale left him without a motive, and though he remained in the war, it was some time after his discharge before he returned to Coventry. He eventually drifted back and died there after a long life. He brought to Hale's father all the young hero's effects, including the camp basket and book. The former was made of osier, neatly twined,

divided into two compartments, and in it there is yet the *débris* that Hale left there the last time he used it.

Asher was always willing to talk of his captain, and though it affected him to tears, many truthful and valuable incidents were related by him of the young soldier's brief camp life.

He received a pension of ninety-six dollars a year, and it was supplemented by the tender and assiduous generosity of Deacon Hale and his son, David Hale, of New York, who looked after Wright all his life. He died in 1844, and was buried in a grave about one hundred and fifty feet north of Hale's monument, and about thirty feet northwest of the graves of the Hale family. A plain marble slab bearing this inscription denotes his resting place:

Asher Wright,
A Revolutionary
Soldier and Attendant of
Captain Nathan Hale.
Died
June 20, 1844.
Aged 90.

It must have been happiness to Wright to know he was to lie thus near to the friend and master who had made him feel the nobility and love that binds a man to those in his employ, whatever his station.

CHAPTER X.

INTENT always on his military duties, Hale never permitted himself to be drawn into any of the games which occupied the attention of other officers. It will be noticed from the record of his diary, which is here given, that he was constantly on the alert to better the state of the service and the condition of his men.

He was a constant visitor at headquarters, where he was a great favorite and he always made a note of any extraordinary circumstance and tried to apply the hints on discipline and military science that he picked up to his own men.

Then he was essentially of a religious temperament. Believing with a complete faith in the efficacy of prayer, he never undertook anything of importance without first sending up a petition for its success. And quietly and by the example of his gentle courtesy and personal cleanliness of life, he sought to make his companion officers better in theirs.

Yet in no way was he what would be called at the present day a "prig."

In his diary he chronicles a number of times that he took wine and played cards with his brother-officers. He had the social temperament so well developed that all the more credit is due to him for the persistence with which he often put aside social pleasures to study out problems connected with his position.

Very little chance was there in his life in these eventful days for thinking of his love and his prospects, but it is to be taken for granted that both were often in his thoughts in the long and lonely duty that was assigned to him. He was very punctual in answering letters from his friends so that it is certain he was equally prompt in writing and answering those from Alice. It is a great pity there is not more detail of this part of his life.

Of the many he wrote, these to his brothers show how he found time to give them intelligence of his health and the movements of the army:

"NEW YORK, May 30, 1776.

"DEAR BROTHER: Your favor of the 9th of May, and another written at Norwich, I have received—the former yesterday.

You complain of my neglecting you—I acknowledge it is not wholly without reason, at the same time I am conscious to have written to you more than once or twice within this half year. Perhaps my letters have miscarried.

"I am not on the end of Long Island but in New York, encamped about one mile back of the city. We have been on the Island and spent about three weeks there, but have returned. As to Brigades: We spent part of the Winter at Winter Hill in Gen'l Sullivan's, thence we were removed to Roxbury and annexed to Gen'l Spencer's; from thence we came to New York in Gen'l Heath's. On our arrival we were put in Gen'l Lord Sterling's; here we continued a few days and were returned to Gen'l Sullivan's; on his being sent to the Northward we were reverted to Lord Sterling's, in whose Brigade we now remain. In the first detachment to the Northward under Gen'l Thomson, Webb's private regiment was put down; but the question being asked if we had

many seamen and the reply being yes, we were erased and another put in our place.

"We have an account of the arrival of Troops at Halifax, thence to proceed on their infamous errand to some part of America.

"Maj'r Brooks informed me last evening, that in conversation with some of the frequenters at headquarters he was told that Gen'l Washington had received a packet from one of the sheriffs of the city of London, in which was contained the Debates at Large of both houses of Parliament—and what is more, the whole proceeding of the Cabinet. The plan of the summer's Campaign in America is said to be communicated in full. Nothing has yet transpired; but the prudence of our Gen'l we trust will make advantage of the intelligence. Gen'l Gates (formerly Adjutant Gen'l, now Maj'r Gen'l) is gone to Philadelphia, probably to communicate the above.

"Some late accounts from the North-

ward are very unfavorable, and would be more so could they be depended on. It is reported that a fleet has arrived in the River; upon the first notice of which our army thought it prudent to break up the siege and retire—that in retreating they were attack'd and rout'd, Numbers kill'd, the sick, most of the cannon and stores taken. The account is not authentic. We hope it is not true.

"It would grieve every good man to consider what unnatural monsters we have, as it were, in our bowels. Numbers in this Colony, and likewise in the western part of Connecticut, would be glad to imbrue their hands in their Country's Blood. Facts render this too evident to admit of dispute. In this city such as refuse to sign the Association have been required to deliver up their arms. Several who refused to comply have been sent to prison.

"It is really a critical Period. America beholds what she never did before. Allow the whole force of our enemy to be but thirty thousand, and these floating

on the Ocean, ready to attack the most unguarded place. Are they not a formidable Foe? Surely they are."

"New York, June 3d, 1776.

"Dear Brother: Continuance or removal from here depends wholly upon the operations of the War.

"It gives pleasure to every friend of his country to observe the health which prevails in our army. Dr. Eli (Surgeon of our Reg't) told me a few days since there was not a man in our Reg't but might on occasion go out with his Fire lock. Much the same is said of other Regiments.

The army is every day improving in discipline, and it is hoped will soon be able to meet the enemy at any kind of play. My company, which at first was small, is now increased to eighty and there is a sergeant recruiting, who, I hope, has got the other 10, which complete the Company.

"We are hardly able to judge as to the numbers the British army for the Sum-

mer is to consist of—undoubtedly sufficient to cause us too much bloodshed.

"Gen'l Washington is at the Congress, being sent for thither to advise on matters of consequence.

"I had written you a complete letter in answer to your last, but missed the opportunity of sending it.

"This will probably find you in Coventry—if so remember me to all your friends—particularly belonging to the Family.

Forget not frequently to visit and strongly to represent my duty to our good Grandmother Strong. Has she not repeatedly favored us with her tender, most important advice? The natural Tie is sufficient, but increased by so much goodness our gratitude cannot be too sensible. I always with respect remember Mr. Huntington and shall write to him if time admits. Pay Mr. Wright a visit for me. Tell him Asher is well—he has for some time lived with me as a waiter. I am in hopes of obtaining him a Furlough soon, that he may

have opportunity to go home, see his friends and get his Summer clothes.

"Asher this moment told me that our Brother Joseph, Joseph Adams, was here yesterday to see me, when I happened out of the way. He is in Col. Parson's regiment. I intend to see him today, and if possible by exchanging get him into my company.

"Yours affectionately,

"N. HALE.

"P.S.: Sister Rose talked of making me some Linen cloth similar to Brown Holland for Summer wear. If she has made it desire her to keep it for me. My love to her, the Doctor, and little Joseph."

"NEW YORK, Aug. 20th, 1776.

"DEAR BROTHER: I have only time for a hasty letter. Our situation has been such this fortnight or more as scarce to admit of writing. We have daily expected an action—by which means, if any was going, and we had letters written,

orders were so strict for our tarrying in camp that we could rarely get leave to go and deliver them—.

"For about 6 or 8 days the enemy have been expected hourly, whenever the wind and tide in the least favored. We keep a particular look out for them this morning. The place and manner of attack time must determine. The event we leave to Heaven. Thanks to God we have had time for completing our works and receiving our reinforcements. The Militia of Connecticut ordered this way have mostly arrived. Col. Ward's Reg't has got in. Troops from the Southward are daily coming. We hope under God to give a good account of the Enemy whenever they choose to make the last appeal.

"Last Friday night two of our fire vessels (a Sloop and Schooner) made an attempt on the shipping up the River.

"The night was too dark, the wind too slack for the attempt. The Schooner which was intendedfor one of the Ships had got by before she discovered them;

but as Providence would have it, she run athwart a bomb-catch which she quickly burned. The Sloop by the light of the former discovered the Phoenix — but rather late—however she made shift to grapple her, but the wind not proving sufficient to bring her close along side or drive the flames immediately on board, the Phoenix after much difficulty got her clear by cutting her own rigging. Serg't Fosdick, who commanded the above sloop, and four of his hands, were of my company, the remaining were of this Reg't.

"The gen'l has been pleased to reward their bravery with forty dollars each, except the last man, who quitted the fire Sloop, who had fifty. Those on board the Schooner received the same. I must write to some of my other brothers lest you should not be at home. Remain, your friend and brother,

"N. HALE,

"Mr. Enoch Hale."

CHAPTER XI.

When the Connecticut troops joined the army in New York, the diligence and care of his company, the thorough understanding of all things military displayed by Hale, made him sought for by other officers, and there were none of his rank so welcomed in the tents of the generals. He was on terms of personal and intimate friendship with Generals Heath, Sullivan, and Putnam, and the acquaintance he had made with the commander-in-chief through the medium of Trumbull, the beloved "Brother Jonathan" of Washington, had ripened into a deep and understanding feeling on both sides.

The commander-in-chief knew how to gauge and appreciate such talent as Hale possessed, and it was a pleasure to him to converse with the young man so old in his conceptions of important things, so fresh and youthful in his pleasures.

The company with which Hale hoped to do great service was all imbued with his own enthusiasm; he had drilled the men and persuaded them to remain, and they had grown to love and delight in his ability. Therefore when an opportunity for good work came the men were as eager as the daring youth to engage in it.

There was a British ship-of-war, the Asia, anchored in the East River, guarding a sloop laden with supplies. Hale had earnestly and carefully reconnoitered the two and every approach, and

he conceived the idea of stealing the sloop from under the very shadow of the man-of-war. It was a daring and hazardous scheme and required cool and daring men to carry it out. He dared not breathe a thought of his intent to any of his fellow-officers, for he knew the risk might be prohibited; so he had a consultation with his chosen men, and they agreed to carry out his plans.

They assembled just before the moon rose and crossed the river in their own skiff, disturbing the calm waters so little that not a hint was given to the enemy. They landed on the opposite shore and crept down the point nearest to the sloop, preserving the same silence, for they were in hostile territory, and the least sound might bring discovery and death. Then they waited for the spring

moon to go down, neither speaking nor moving in the long watch. Finally, the heavy darkness of early morn settled on all, and the little crew made for the skiff, which was rowed out into the stream, pausing every little while as some fancied sound was cause of alarm.

On board the Asia all was still, though they often heard the monotonous cry of the sentinel: "All's well," as he kept his ward on the quarter deck. The patriots were under the bow of the sloop, in another moment they were over its side and on its deck, and Hale seizing the helm pointed for the American camp, the others keeping watch over the British sailors not yet disturbed in their bunks The sloop gained the wharf even as the faint sound of the Asia's sentinel's "All's well" came over the waters, and

then the brave Hale and his crew gave three loud cheers, which were taken up by the men who quickly gathered on the wharf. The prize was a rich one and won him special thanks, the gift of money to his men and the sense of elation that he had been able to help feed the hungry and clothe the ragged in the camp, adding much to his satisfaction.

It took something out of the usual run to raise the spirits of the Americans in those days. The army had dwindled away by sickness, expiration of term of enlistment and dissatisfaction to about fourteen thousand, many of these unfit for service, raw, unfed, unclothed, all apprehensive. The officers, were, many of them, ignorant of their duties and like their men anxious and disheartened. Nothing but sublime faith in the justice

of the cause could have supported Washington in this dreadful time of doubt and indecision. He did not know how to plan his campaign, for he was utterly ignorant of the tactics that his adversary would adopt, and he shrunk from any movement that would peril the fortunes of the republic, and lose the confidence of the nation, for he well knew that it was rankest folly to suppose he could oppose his raw and undisciplined recruits to the twenty-five thousand perfectly equipped and drilled British veterans so advantageously posted, provided with every need of war and supported by so magnificent a fleet of battleships, and only waiting to move upon the "rebels" to destroy them, as their generals boasted. The patriots, too, had some of the same feeling and the men who were

deserting by regiments and clamoring for their pay from an empty treasury, argued they were not deficient in patriotism, only displaying sense.

CHAPTER XII.

With nothing to fall back upon in the way of stores or defenses it behooved Washington to make his first important movement with the greatest care. But how could he anticipate the British plans? The concern of the enemy seemed to be with feasting and gayety only, but the American general knew that so experienced and able a commander as Howe was not letting his duty to his king suffer. He was formulating his plans, and when they were perfected he would advance and close about his weak and inferior foe, and perhaps scatter the army that stood as the bulwark of freedom.

It can be imagined how long Washington turned over in his mind the probable plans of Howe ere he determined to seek information from the very inside and secure through a spy what he could not otherwise obtain and what he knew would be invaluable aid.

It was not in accordance with his nature to turn to this means until he felt there was no other, and it is to be believed that it was with extreme repugnance he accepted the conclusion that only thus could he gain the knowledge he needed.

He knew how easy it would be for the British general, in full possession—through spies and traitors, of which there was abundance—of his weakness, to surround him, and he resolved if possible to concentrate his force instead of

having it spread over sixteen miles of front. But at what point?

He took his board of officers into consultation and they agreed as to the conclusion though unable to offer any solution of the difficulty, and it was decided that one of them, Colonel Knowlton, should gather the officers together and try to find a volunteer for the hazardous work. It required a man of education and familiarity with drawing and all that draughtsmen should know, for the principal information was to be about the British fortifications, one able to mingle in the society of officers, draw out confidences and form accurate estimate of the numbers, the disposition, the manner of concentration, the ammunition, in fact, everything that military science knew and desired to know.

It was not only a call for a man of great bravery and trustworthiness, but for one who was not only intelligent but determined to leave nothing undone that could give him success.

It was a pity there should have been no honorable name to designate such service.

The very name of spy was odious to honorable men, and no matter how great the services rendered the doer was likely to be held in contempt. And yet there was no reason for this treatment of an honorable man. The spy and traitor, animated by greed and desire for revenge is detestable, but when a man accepts a dishonorable and dangerous task for the sake of his country he is entitled to more honor and admiration than is the desert of the successful general

and the soldier who wins his laurels in the heat of battle.

But when Colonel Knowlton convened his council of officers and asked for volunteers there was a long and unbroken pause, while each man looked at the other, not with questioning whether he would respond, but with inquiry as to how he would receive what was held to be an insult. There was resentment slowly gathering on every face, for men in those days thought it noble to be a soldier in the field, but held it little short of disgrace to seek to pry into an enemy's councils.

Knowlton saw the situation, and he set forth in impassioned language the need of some volunteer, the distress in which the commander-in-chief was, the absolute certainty that without this in-

formation there would be great danger of utter defeat and loss of life.

He concluded, and waited for a volunteer. None stirred, though all acknowledged the force of his reasoning. Still—

He felt his heart sink, and yet he could not blame the men. Just then, a man who had entered after he had concluded his appeal and had gathered from those about him its purport, arose, and said in a voice that was weak with illness but strong in resolve:

"I will undertake it."

"Captain Hale!" exclaimed Hull, his friend and companion, afterward General Hull, "you do not know what you say. You a spy?"

"It is out of the question," cried several. "There is some one other than you for such a service."

"Who?" asked Hale, and there was a shamed-faced silence which was broken by remonstrance as he again declared his willingness. Even Knowlton was sorry that this youth, the pride and darling of the soldiery, should offer himself and tried to extend the hope that some other could be found to perform the required service.

Yet he had nothing on which to base it. He had tried to tempt a French sergeant to essay the service, but had been repulsed with the reply that while he was willing to fight like a man for the republic, he would not expose himself to die the death of a dog.

While his friend and schoolmate, who was overcome with emotion was talking, Hale disengaged himself from their grasp and replied to their arguments in the im-

mortal speech, whose conclusion Hull has given to us:

"I think I owe to my country the accomplishment of an object so important and so much desired by the commander of her armies—and I know no other mode of obtaining the information than by assuming a disguise and passing into the enemy's camp. I am fully sensible of the consequences of discovery and capture in such a situation. But for a year I have been attached to the army and have not rendered any material service, while receiving a compensation for which I make no return. Yet I am not influenced by the expectation of promotion or pecuniary reward. I wish to be useful, and every kind of service for the public good becomes honorable by being necessary. If the exigencies of my

country demand a peculiar service its claims to the performance of that service are imperious!"

What a different reply from that in the case of André. How noble the feeling, how unselfish, how purely actuated by that noblest of motives, love of his country!

The friends who had hoped to dissuade him from the task they dreaded for him, not so much on account of its danger as of the stigma that defeat would entail, were abashed before such sublime self-abnegation and could only sorrowfully wish him godspeed and pray there would be no necessity for the extreme sacrifice. It was with emotions of pride as well as poignant grief that Hull, his dear friend, listened to his words. And in his heart as in that of every man pres-

ent there entered a new conception of the claims of country.

Hale waited but a little to arrange his thoughts for he was still weak and trembling in body from his recent illness, having actually risen from his bed to come to the gathering, ere he presented himself before the commander-in-chief. He had firmly resolved that whatever objection Washington should advance he would meet with all the force of his conviction and determination, for he knew that the noble-souled chief loved him and might seek to dissuade in the privacy of friendship.

Of what passed between the young captain and the commander-in-chief, who entertained so warm an affection for him there is no means of knowing, but it can be assumed that Washington put

aside his feeling as a soldier and urged him to consider all the dangers and dishonor of the task before undertaking it. And we can also hold fast the thought that Hale met him with respectful firmness and the expression of his desire to do something to aid in this vital crisis.

Their interview was long, and when Hale left Washington's presence it must have been with a long and loving pressure of the hand he was never to grasp again, while to the heart of the general there must have come a bitter thought of the demands of war.

It took Hale some time to arrange his plans; it was in the middle of September that he was ready to go, and armed with the necessary means to obtain all the aid that Americans could give him, and having with him Stephen Hempstead.

of New London, a true and tried friend and companion, he left the army and walked from Harlem Heights to Norwalk, fifty miles up the Sound on the Connecticut shore.

They had got along well, for they were in the friendliest of territory, though here and there were Tories, and they had kept their plans to themselves so well that all whom they met supposed them bound for a visit to their homes. It had been impossible for them before to find any craft that would land them on the opposite shore, for the East River and the Sound were filled with British vessels on the lookout for the Yankee craft that thus early were beginning to sorely harass and annoy them.

At Norwalk, however, they found the armed sloop Huntington, commanded by

Captain Pond, and Hale engaged and prepared to don his disguise, for he was to go as a traveling schoolmaster.

It was the character he could feel most natural in, and the one that would enable him to mingle with men of learning. It was not without some trepidation that Hempstead saw him prepare for the work, for he then realized that now was the beginning of the real danger.

He placed his uniform, his military commission, many of his papers, his silver shoe buckles, in the hands of his friend, but retained his watch and his diploma, for both were to bear out his character. It is said that he was jesting when he declared that he meant to pass for a "Dutch" schoolmaster, and the retention of the diploma with his name upon it shows that he was determined to

pass under his own name. Donning a plain suit of brown clothes and a round, broad-brimmed hat, as soon as night came, he bade farewell to his friend and went on board the sloop. The passage across the Sound was quickly made and the sloop safely and unmolested glided into the harbor of Huntington.

The point chosen for the landing was called The Cedars. The boat speedily put him ashore, and passing the farm-house of Jesse Fleet, which, with the dwelling of the Widow Rachel Chichester, "Mother Chick," a noted loyalist, whose tavern was the resort of all the Tories and Loyalists for miles around, Hale went along the road toward the settlement on the east side of Huntington harbor, till after a mile's walk he reached the residence of William John-

son, and attracted by the light already in the windows of the thrifty farmer, walked boldly to the door which, fortunately, was opened by Mr. Johnson himself. They had a confidential interview, and the farmer placed himself and his at Hale's service.

Such information as he could give was eagerly furnished and also a good breakfast and a bed. After a few hours' repose, Hale again resumed his way and successfully threading the increasing dangers, found himself at last in New York City.

It was needful that he had the cool, clear brain that was his, for the line of the British had greatly advanced in the short time that intervened since he left Harlem Heights. Between the headquarters of Howe at one end and Clinton

at the other was stretched the whole army, and Long Island, from Red Hook to Flushing Bay and far into the country from Brooklyn, was occupied by the enemy. Added to this the intermediate country was patrolled daily by troops of British cavalry, and they were not as eager and vindictive toward the patriots as the organized and unorganized Tories who only sought to win favor by finding out information or capturing American stragglers.

It required alertness and adaptability to pass undetected, and Hale employed these qualities of his nature with fine success. He was always able to make himself a favorite, and we can think of him as winning the confidence and gaining the secrets of many a British officer and soldier whom he met as he traveled

along his humble way seeking some place where he could ply his calling in assurance that the power of King George would protect him from the insolent Yankees.

He ran the gantlet and was in the very heart of the enemy, and wandered about New York, in the camp, exchanging jests and talking with soldier and officer, and the while carrying the plans of the fortifications in his eye, sauntering about all day and sitting up nearly all night sketching or even prowling about as near as he dared to the sentinels. He received a great deal of information from the boastful talk of the soldiers and officers who were glad to tell how well they were prepared to destroy the Yankee general and his troops.

In the city he passed again and again

the famous or infamous jails, already filled with unhappy prisoners, already sending out daily their long train of bodies of victims of pestilence and ill treatment, or the guarded prisoners marching to death. He must have seen some of the dreadful sights furnished by the provost jail; he must have heard of Cunningham and the brutalities that sickened even the British soldiers. But with the shadow of death hanging over him he walked serenely, upheld by his conviction that he was working for a noble purpose, exulting and drawing new strength in his exhausting task as each day gave him more to add to the priceless information for which Washington was waiting.

He had carefully drawn plans of all the fortifications. Distrustful of his

memory, he had set down in Latin the information he had garnered, and his shoes were padded with finely executed details. Then, satisfied that no more could be obtained, assured that what he had would enable Washington to execute a *coup* that would break the British force in two and place New York in the power of the Americans; tortured now by the fear lest the patriots should make some move before he could bear back the fruit of his work, he turned his face from New York and began his homeward journey.

He did not, probably, take the same route that he had used in coming, and it is impossible to trace his movements, for no one has ever been found who could give any account of conversation with him till he reached The Cedars.

He had skirted the British outposts, and traversed all the hostile territory, and was again at the point where it was arranged a friendly vessel should daily send a boat to meet him. He came in the early morning, and it is likely that his coming anticipated rather than followed the boat, for as he scanned the water there was no sign of craft of any sort, and hungry and emboldened by his long-continued success he entered the Tory tavern, believing that none there could recognize him, and perhaps with the boyish daring that would crop out in his dignified and manly character, wishing to give himself a little sport with the enemy ere he returned.

He certainly knew of the character of the place he was entering, and it was with the feeling that his disguise could

stand any test, it is likely, that he entered it.

Though it was yet early morning there was a number of persons seated in the great room and "Mother Chick" herself took his order. He entered into conversation with the others, and was so engrossed that he did not notice that one whose face he had but seen slightly and then had been impressed with its familiarity, had slipped out. He ate his breakfast and was still in the most entertaining part of his conversation, for the sentiments of the loyalists and their hints at what was to be done, their boasts of what they could do for the king, interested him, ever on the alert for news.

Several hours had elapsed since he entered, and he was beginning to think

he ought to go forth again to spy for the longed-for boat when Mother Chichester announced to all that a strange boat was coming.

Consternation seized on the loyalists, and they prepared to disperse, some offering to bring the young stranger with them, but Hale declined, saying surely the Yankee, if it were one, would not molest a poor schoolmaster. And he said that he would go out and see what was the mission of the newcomer.

His easy manner left him as he passed the barroom's threshold, and he almost ran to the beach, so confident was he that it was the boat for which he waited.

He had come in range of the boat's crew when suddenly a dozen men leaped up, and covering him with their muskets, cried: "Surrender or die!"

He had been betrayed! It leaped into his mind that the familiar face he had perplexedly noticed was that of a renegade enemy and relative who had slipped out and given to the British vessel lying at anchor just below the point the signal to come for a prize.

God only knows what other thoughts passed through his brain, what despair possessed that heart, but an instant before bounding with joy and hope.

There was no escape. Retreat was cut off, for the swarming tories were in his rear and death was his only portion if he refused the summons. And life was very dear to him, and he clung to it, though reason told him the chance of escape was very remote. He was taken into custody and among the boat's crew he saw the informer, the unworthy

relative, whose disgrace had been such a keen mortification to the family, and whose ignoble revenge was thus gratified.

He was rowed to the guardship, the Halifax, Captain Quarme, who received him with courtesy though sternness, and whose first word showed that his identity was known. Hale did not attempt to deny it. He was questioned if he were not a captain in the Continental army, and he said simply that he was. Asked as to his reason for being in that garb and evidently disguised, he refused to reply; but the search of his person showed the truth, and from the soles of his shoes were drawn the plans and maps he had thought to bear to Washington to give him the help that would have been so invaluable. As these were brought to light and the descriptions in

Latin read, it must have been that the cloud of despair blackened and obscured all the sun of hope.

There was but one duty in the premises, to convey him to New York, and thither the vessel bent her way.

It is evidence of the wonderful magnetism and grand qualities of Hale that he completely captivated his captors, for though the name of spy was enough to cause him to be treated with loathing and scorn by the enemy's officers, his bearing, his countenance, the dignity and bravery with which he stood the discovery and the simple manliness of his attitude so won on the captain of the Halifax that he impetuously exclaimed he had regret "that so fine a fellow had fallen into his power."

But his standard of duty required him

to be true to his country, and he regretfully sent Hale under a detachment in to New York.

It might have been possible for the young patriot to elude his guard if there had been any help, any friendly face or presence in the throng through which they passed when they landed at the New York wharf, but the lower part of the city fairly swarmed with soldiers, and the citizens were eagerly and fearfully battling the flames striving to save their property, and thus there was none to take an interest in the young prisoner, to report his capture and arouse patriotic feeling.

New York was on fire, and had been blazing fiercely, apparently defying control since 2 o'clock that morning. Beginning at Whitehall Slip, both sides of

Broadway and away up into the city, was a mass of flames and smoke. The British soldiers had been called out to help battle with the flames, the firemen seemed to be unable to hold it in check, and the whole city was thought to be doomed.

The morning of that eventful Saturday, September 21, was dark and lowering and the spread of the smoke really made the conflagration seem greater. But it was not stopped till four hundred and ninety-three houses, one-third of the city, was laid in ashes.

Hale realized soon that he was not to meet with one friendly face, and he composed his features to firmness as he neared the quarters of General Howe.

CHAPTER XIII.

THREE miles from the City Hall stood a mansion built by James Beekman, a sterling patriot, who, on the approach of the British, had abandoned his house and retreated to Esopus. It was a spacious and well-appointed mansion, and the commander-in-chief of the British army at once selected it for his headquarters, for it was sufficiently near the center of the city to command all the stirring and plotting going on in a few moments, and far enough from the provost jail to avoid letting any of the sounds from the prison den reach the British commander's ears, says Stuart. The testimony of wit-

nesses, and Mr. Beekman's gardener, who made a note of it at the time corroborates the statement that it was in the greenhouse of the mansion that Hale was confronted with General Howe. It was a rare coincidence that André occupied a room in this mansion, just at the head of the stairs, before he went on his ill-fated expedition, but it is a fact that Hale did not enter the house, but was conducted to the greenhouse.

Howe was not in the best of humors, and weary with the day's work and anxious for the dinner that was to come off that evening, the announcement that he was to sit in judgment on an American spy did not tend to sweeten his disposition. He was an eminently just man and desired above all to keep his reputation clear from charges of excessive cruelty.

To say that this man would have committed Hale to the mercies of Cunningham if he knew the character of the latter is to make an assertion that seems to be not in accordance with Howe's attributes.

But it must be remembered that nothing aroused the indignation of officers so much as the attempt of a spy to pry into their precious secrets, and, therefore, it can be seen how ruthless Howe would be under this provocation.

When Hale was ushered into his presence the young American saw a man who at first sight might be thought to resemble Washington—tall, slender, dignified, graceful, with an appearance of almost majestic loftiness, yet on his sharp, clearly cut features, nothing of that benignity which distinguished the

American commander and made him gentle and pitying, though just, when talking with those who were brought for his judgment. Howe's face was habitually fretful in expression in these days and his temper, naturally quick and sharp, was exasperated to-day by the fire and the time the soldiers employed in putting it out.

He saw a young, magnificently formed man, with a calm, pale, yet serenely resolute face, with culture and education, power and intellect, and the loftiness of the inner spirit so enstamped upon it that he involuntarily asked for a repetition of the charge.

It was given, and Howe frowningly resumed his seat and bent his piercing gaze upon Hale. The latter returned it with the direct and level look of a man

who knows that he is to be judged and scorns to prevaricate.

Howe interrogated him, and was answered without equivocation and in a modest and manly manner that made an impression on the listeners, but which enraged the commander-in-chief. Hale did not attempt to conceal his work, which was spread before the general and followed by him with alarm and anger as he saw how ably and successfully it had been done. Every one of his plans, his carefully erected fortifications were sketched and described in Latin, and he could scarcely contain his anger.

Hale did not try to ask for trial by court martial, he was too well aware of the fate that was deemed fit for a spy, but he did manfully defend himself when Howe asked him why, he, a man of

learning and appearance had attempted this ignominious thing. He told him he was serving his country and that sufficed to make him do any service that was sought from him.

Howe looked at him in involuntary admiration and across his mind came the thought: "What a gain this would be to turn him to us! Surely, ambition and place can tempt him;" and he offered to Hale full pardon if he would only join the army, or form one of the regiments of Tories or king's American dragoons, for Royal American regiments or volunteers, he even promised to Hale speedy removal from that and advancement in the regular army, but the young patriot was not to purchase life on such terms; it would not be life but a dishonored existence. And he emphatically declared

that nothing so increased his loyalty to his country as the present temptation to forsake her.

"Then you may die for her," grimly declared Howe, and turning to his desk he made out the commitment and directed William Cunningham, provost marshal of the royal army, to receive the body of one Nathan Hale, captain, in the rebel army, and convicted as a spy, by the order of William Howe, commander-in-chief of the forces of His Majesty George the Third, in America, and keep it in safe custody till morning at daybreak, when he was to see him hung by the neck till dead.

The commander-in-chief had done with the convicted spy. The young captain had served his country, but, alas! the priceless information was never to be

hers, and she was to lose a gallant and proved soldier.

Hale listened to his sentence without a word. He was as erect and fearless when the dread words, harshly pronounced, without a word of pity on his youth, fell on his ear as when he stood at the head of his devoted and loving band. It must have been that the whole panorama of his life swept before him, but no sign of the agony of his soul was forced from him, and at touch of the guard he turned and followed him from the greenhouse and to the place where the provost marshal was awaiting him.

The news of Hale's wonderful success in remaining so long a time in the British lines and having such carefully sketched details of the British movements and plans had quickly passed through the

army, and there was quite a crowd of officers and soldiers to look at the spy and pass invidious remarks. But Hale might never have heard them. He was thinking, we may believe, not so much of his own fate as of the loss to his beloved commander-in-chief of the information that would have been such a guide, perhaps a saving of years of struggle.

Cunningham was very eager to receive him from the officer who commanded his guard and would fain have dismissed the young British lieutenant if he dared, but Howe's order had been that the officer should not leave Hale till he saw him safely in the provost dungeon, and Cunningham sullenly acquiesced in his presence. Hale had already heard of this man, so notorious for his brutality,

and natural curiosity led him to scan him closely.

He beheld a large and tall man with a countenance reddened equally with drink and passion, rough in feature and intensely forbidding of aspect, without the presence of a single emotion that was not purely animal.

William Cunningham had been in his earlier years a soldier in the British dragoons, then he came to New York and joined the Royalists and Tories, doing every service to show his vindictive animosity toward the Americans. It was really with Cunningham a feeling of personal hate of liberty that actuated him, in much of his vile work. Then he was exceedingly avaricious and after Sir William Howe made him provost marshal of the British army, he studied how

he could best defraud the unfortunates thrown into his power of the rations allowed them, impartially cheating both government and prisoners. He was never sober, and though always able to attend to his duties, the calling from his revels threw him into a rage that he vented on the prisoners till he wearied of the task. Kicking them, exposing them to insult too vile to mention, parading up and down the corridors with his negro hangman, Richmond, at his back carrying a coil of rope, hanging the condemned in the yard back of the jail and leaving their bodies to dangle for hours so that the other prisoners must see and be intimidated; these were some of the tortures inflicted by him on those in his custody.

Of these, such as had means were

made to pay for everything they received in advance, and such as had friends were encouraged to have the latter come and bring them food. This he confiscated, and if remonstrated with, threatened them with the jail.

Another of his pastimes was rushing into the cell of the prisoners and announcing that the day or the morrow was to be their last, bidding them get ready and often having a gallows erected under their windows. That he made way with those who were particularly obnoxious to him there is no reason to doubt.

It is related that he also had a regular system of levy, and collected money from all who dared let their love for those in his clutches bring them within reach. He sent out spies to as-

certain the circumstances and relatives of his prisoners, and governed himself in his treatment of them by the amount of money he could obtain, though he was so consisistently brutal that he would take the money and continue his persecutions.

CHAPTER XIV.

The provost was then in use as a jail. It was a receptacle for offenders who were most notorious. It was the safest of all places in which to keep a prisoner. It was adjacent to the spot where public executions at this period usually took place. Two old gentlemen of Lyme, Connecticut, saw Hale there the night before his execution. A Hessian straggler passing through Coventry just after the event told Mr. Brigham, with whom he stayed all night that he saw Hale hung in New York near Chambers Street.

The provost jail stood upon the eastern boundary of the City Hall Park, where the present Hall of Records stands. It was

guarded strictly and every mode of ingress or egress was under surveillance all the time, details of men being charged with a duty whose neglect would soon cost them their lives. The food was wretched and stinted to a cruel degree, the accommodations abominably overcrowded; and side by side with men of refinement and culture would be the outcasts of the town whose language and conduct added a double torture to the imprisonment. It was supposed to be possible for the friends of the prisoners to give them some articles of food and clothing, but Cunningham invariably confiscated them and frightened away the messengers with his vulgar and terrific abuse.

Close to the provost jail was an old burying ground in Chambers, then Bar-

rack Street and this was the spot that Cunningham chose for his executions. He offered to hang his prisoners in batches of five or six back of the prison yard, but the protests of decency prevented him from carrying out his savage desire. He was particularly anxious to have the life of the proud and noble young man who surveyed him with such calm, unmoved contempt, and evinced no emotion when he employed all the resources of his ingenuity to add new torments.

The heart of Hale, indeed, was far from the brutal jailer who had the power to torture his body for a few hours longer. He had received the sentence unmoved and made no attempt to secure clemency, knowing well that in accordance with the fortune of war, the de-

cision was what he had to expect. But as soon as the conviction that but a few hours intervened between him and eternity settled upon his soul, the present was temporarily forgotten, his whole soul turning to his dear ones.

Till daybreak! Why, it would take every hour to write to Alice and the father, whose claims could not be forgotten. Then he wanted to give some token of love to each of his brothers and sisters and his nephews and all the dear friends whom he was never to greet, some evidence that he had met his fate like a soldier and patriot and was only sorry that he could not have further served his country.

He scarcely knew that Cunningham was questioning him as he gave his age, birth, rank and size, heard read the war-

rant that consigned him to death and was rigidly searched and ordered to be closely confined and watched.

He asked then if he might not have his hands left unpinioned and be furnished a light and writing materials that he might write to his friends. Cunningham peremptorily refused, and when he asked for a Bible jeered and threw his ribald jests at the unfortunate, asking him what he needed of a book to make repentance? The most sincere would be the confessing his sorrow for his acts against his king and turning back to the service, then he might have a chance to live.

Hale entreated for this favor, which he declared to be but a right that humanity should accord him, and, fortunately, the young British lieutenant, who had lin-

ered near, so interested was he in the youth scarce his own age, so strong and daring, heard and had his manly sympathies aroused. In a tone of authority, cutting in its contempt of the human brute, he ordered Cunningham to comply with Hale's request, and then withdrew after the young man was placed in a cell, and writing materials and a light thrust upon the narrow board that served as a table.

How can we imagine the night, the thoughts of the young man? In that hour with the certainty of an ignominious death before him; the knowledge that never again would he be able to look upon his loved ones; the doubt whether the words that he was about to pen for them would reach them, would it be strange that his heart quailed?

But there is no reason for supposing that it did. The same high courage that supported him in the facing of Howe, the calm contempt for the brute who had received him into custody, remained with him and gave him strength. And he also knew that he had to send words of comfort to those he loved, that his farewell to the bride whom death was to prevent him from joining in this world would have to be made in such terms as would enable her to bear the blow. He set to the task, we can believe, with firmness and resolution, and then the testimony of all who showed that he was essentially and deeply religious tells in what communion with his God the other hours of that night were spent.

Morning came all too soon, but it found him ready when the brutal jailer looked

in. He had never touched the oaken plank, which was his bed, for he had no thought of sleep, and as soon as the provost marshal thrust himself into the cell he handed him his letters and eagerly scanned his face to see if he might have the certainty that the man, hard though he was, would not trifle with the solemn trust of a dying man.

But it was to be a new torture inflicted on that much suffering soul. The provost marshal, with no thought of his victim's feelings, tore open the pages in his haste to read and after he found how uncowed, how noble and how patriotic were the sentiments therein expressed, tore the letters into shreds, and stamping his foot, exclaimed he would not permit the rebels to have such letters; such sentiments were far too strongly savoring of

rebellion, too suggestive of resistance to his majesty. Why, Cunningham is reported to have said it would have been an incentive to fight to have let them have his letters; the rebels should never know they had a man who could die with such noble sentiments.

Hale was helpless. There was none to whom he could ask the favor of bearing or remembering a message, and it was with a pang of the bitterest grief that he saw all his carefully written, softening and encouraging words trampled in the dust, but he was nerved by the loathing he felt for the tyrant to conceal his emotion, and after the first bitter word which must have dropped from his lips to let Cunningham know his contempt, he was silent, and gave all his thought to the journey before him.

The sun was beginning to streak the horizon when he ordered the captive to prepare for his death march. It had been a very exciting Saturday in the city, the fire which had started at 2 o'clock in the morning had taken up all the efforts of citizens and soldiers to check it, and there were many who had remained on the alert all through the night to assist the men who were curbing its spread. There were also others who came to the city from the surrounding country and were just reaching it on the break of day. These, with a farmer of Long Island, Tunis Bogart, who related that "Cunningham butchered Hale like a calf," some soldiers and officers of the army and the officer whose narrative of the execution furnished to General Hull the material from which Stuart drew

his "Life of Hale," the inevitable crowd which news of an execution gathers, all hastened about the place of execution as soon as the tidings that Cunningham was to string up another victim was heard. Among the throng were many women with children in their arms, at first curious and careless spectators, but at sight of the youth and beauty of the victim their hearts were touched and their cries and pitying comments were so long that the brutal provost marshal ordered them to silence at pain of their own imprisonment.

Hale had asked again for some man of God, to whom he might speak and with whose prayers in his ears he might meet his fate, but the request had met so scoffing a refusal that the young man determined he would not let his custodian

see how it hurt him. He was to meet the most ignominious of deaths, one that causes a soldier's heart to always weaken with horror at its very mention. It was far from the thoughts which had strengthened the young warrior when he put the bright vision of love behind him. Pride, we know, was in Hale's heart, but it was the noblest, loftiest sort, and the knowledge that it was duty which he had obeyed enabled him to bear up with that wondrous fortitude which awed even the coarse nature of his captors.

He had been bound with his arms behind him and clothed in a white jacket with white overalls and a white cap on his shining brown hair. Though an earlier hour had been set than the usual one, 10 o'clock, the soldiers had been drawn up in a hollow square as was the

custom, and in the center was a large tree. Beneath, already dug, with the spade and earth in an unsightly heap, was the grave for the body of the executed. A sight that would have completely unnerved the strongest heart.

From the provost jail to the place of execution was but a short distance and the procession was soon formed with a guard of soldiers leading the way, then Hale, his white jacket and cap bordered with black, and his winding sheet and coffin borne by four black men, and then the negro hangman with the rope and ladder on his shoulders and a double guard of soldiers with Cunningham and the officers detailed to witness the carrying out of sentence in the rear. When the spot was reached the guards formed a semicircle, the hangman ad-

vanced, and while Hale stood calmly witnessing his preparations, placed his ladder against the tree, adjusted his rope and descended. Then he took the coffin of Hale and placed it in such a position that it was directly beneath the hanging noose, and Hale was ordered to mount it.

His face, so noble, so beautiful, so illumined with lofty hope and heroism and courage, was turned upon the throng, and at sight of that proud and uplifted look, that expression of confidence and hope in the life so soon to be his, a great awe fell on the people and even the soldiers were moved.

Cunningham marked the impression he made, and hoping that he would ruin it by a speech, boisterously demanded that he make his last speech and confession.

The eyes of Hale had swept sky and earth, had lingered in a long, caressing farewell, his soul had been filled with thoughts of his country, and when the coarse voice of the provost marshal disturbed the air, he cast upon him a glance of ineffable contempt, and then bent his look on the spectators. The women were sobbing audibly and the men had to turn their eyes from that glowing countenance for a moment. Then as he looked upon them all were silent, and his voice, strong, full, ringing with energy and patriotism, filled with love of God and country, gave its immortal message to the future:

"I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." Thus spoke the patriot, the martyr, the noble soul that knew naught of selfishness.

The provost marshal was stunned. For a moment his venom and rage nearly choked his utterance, then, in a tone like the bellowing of a defied and maddened bull he roared:

"Swing the rebel off!"

All that a man hath will he give for his life, and when he gives life with all that life hath for his country, patriots may immortalize, but only the infinite can measure the extent of the sacrifice.

CHAPTER XV.

The disclosure of the work of Hale had a very important effect on the British general's plans, and doubtless was instrumental in causing the change of some. Due importance was attached to Hale's mission, and no time was lost in notifying Washington of the fate of his messenger.

It was a dreadful disappointment, but the first thought was for the young man so cruelly cut down in his promise. The announcement was made by a British officer, Colonel Montaznar, who was deputed to convey the information to General Washington under a flag of

truce. It had a very depressing effect on the army, and for days all that was discussed was the capture of the hero so loved by all. The British expression of courtesy was, primarily, for the purpose of showing how futile it was to try to secure possession of their secrets, and it was successful, for it would have been impossible to have found any one to venture again.

That Washington's plans depended greatly on Hale's success, and that he was so obliged to meet unusual obstacles because of his apprehension, history has shown. But history has not set down the love the commander-in-chief felt for the young officer whom he knew so intimately, and whom he thought he had permitted to go to his death.

The news of the fate of Nathan Hale

traveled all too quickly to the home in Coventry, and the family there was struck with the bitterest grief, though the Puritan habit of repression made the deacon and his daughters and sons restrain its manifestation. Then there was the heroic strain which gloried in the thought that a son and brother had been able to die so gloriously for his country. It must have been a consolation to the father and sisters and brothers who so loved him to think he had died for duty.

Of the feelings of Alice Ripley there is no chronicle. She was so thoroughly in harmony with the nature of her grand young lover that she must have felt something of the exalted sacrifice that he had made even in her bitter grief. To have been twice cheated out of happi-

ness and to know that the gallows had been the fate of one born for such honorable distinction in learning and eloquence, and gifted with such a full dower of talent, must have wrung her heart sorely. Yet, though she could not have failed to keep his image in her heart for many years, she finally married a gentleman of Hartford, Connecticut, William Lawrence, and there in a delightful atmosphere of culture she lived till her death in September, 1845. So strong is the force of love that as death came to bear her away she murmured: "Write to Nathan."

The stirring times that followed, the vicissitudes that beset the American army and its final triumph, and then the poverty and struggle for existence in the years after the war, were among the

causes which contributed to the neglect of proper testimonial to Hale. His services were appreciated and not forgotten, but they were unrecorded in the marble and towering shaft with which a nation delights to honor its heroes.

The gravestone placed by the family to denote his death was a simple slab, telling that beside his father was a memento of "Nathan Hale, Esq., a captain in the army of the United States, was born June 6, 1755, received the first honors of Yale College, in September, 1773, and resigned his life a sacrifice to his country's liberty at New York, September 22, 1776, aged twenty-two."

It was not till 1837 that patriotic sentiment in Connecticut demanded that there be fitting recognition of his great service, and the Hale Monument Associa-

tion was formed. It was chiefly to individuals that the first appeal was made, though Congress was asked again and again to appropriate a suitable sum. Hitherto the only memento outside that of his family was Fort Nathan Hale in New Haven harbor, erected in 1808, and some societies that honored themselves by adopting his name and dying speech for a motto. But it was not till the 25th of November, 1837, when the evacuation of New York was being celebrated by a party of Revolutionary soldiers numbering twenty and many prominent people of the town, that Judge A. T. Judson, in his brilliant memorial address, proposed the organization of the association.

Previous to the formation of the association, Judge Judson with two other representatives from Connecticut tried to

have Congress grant a sum for a Hale cenotaph, but in vain. Though the house committee for ten years submitted favorable reports, though petitions poured in from the people of the State, there was this curious lack of patriotism. The first petition was headed by the name of Dr. Nathan Howard, who married Joanna, sister of Nathan. The second came from Hartford, was drawn up by the Hon. Thomas S. Williams, and signed by thousands all over the State. Upon this a report was made by Congress recommending the setting aside of one thousand dollars for the purpose, but the report was not acted upon.

The Hale Association was composed of patriots, and by the most indefatigable and continued work it succeeded in raising over two thousand dollars, the ladies

of Coventry being the most diligent in the work, and in May, 1846, the State granted one thousand dollars, and in 1847 two hundred and fifty dollars more, and on the 7th of April, 1846, the ground was broken for the monument, which was completed September 17, 1846.

The total cost was three thousand seven hundred and thirty-three dollars and ninety-three cents, the railroads which transported the stone from Quincy, Massachusetts, the Old Colony, Boston and Worcester, and the Norwich and Worcester, whose president was the Hon. Nathan Hale, of Boston, gave the transportation; the ladies of Coventry had a Nathan Hale drama, a tea party and other entertainments, whereby they alone raised the sum of fifteen hundred dollars.

The first Nathan Hale monument is a very beautiful one.

It stands on elevated ground in a most commanding site in the Hale family burial plot, and consists of a pyramidal shaft resting on a base of steps with a shelving projection about one-third of the way up the pedestal. It is of hewn Quincy granite, solid from foundation to capstone and embracing twenty-five tons of stone, fourteen feet square at the base and forty-five feet high, and bears on its sides the following inscription:

(East side.)
Captain Nathan Hale, 1776.
(North side.)
Born at Coventry, June 6, 1755.
(South side.)
Died at New York, September 22, 1776.
(West side.)
"I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

The next memorial after that in Coventry was the statue erected by the State of Connecticut in the capitol grounds in Hartford, and there is also preserved with tenderest care the old Nathan Hale schoolhouse in New London, Connecticut, on Union Street. Then there is also in New London a beautiful grammar school named after the hero, a patriotic society, the Nathan Hale Sons of the American Revolution, Nathan Hale Street, and an order of fraternal society, with one of the American Mechanics perpetuates the name, and bears testimony to the love and pride of the citizens of the town in which he taught before he went to lay down his life on Liberty's altar.

Huntington, Long Island, where he was captured has also erected a memorial.

But the most beautiful and best known, the most eloquent and widespread in its influence, is that noble figure in which Macmonnies has made enduring presentation of youth and beauty and heroism. Standing in City Hall Park, New York, it is daily seen by thousands, and the fascination and potency of that beautiful statue has brought close to hundreds of thousands the history of Hale, has given new meaning to love of country and enkindled in men's breasts a quenchless flame, that fire of divinity which makes a man love his country next to his God, and, loving his God, but love his country the more.

Besides the statue in the Hartford Capitol the one in the Athenæum ought to be mentioned. It is of bronze and stands on the grounds in a fine position. Enoch Woods the sculptor, a Hartford man, did the work at the request of Mr. James J. Good-

win, who presented it to the institution in 1894. The figure is nobly conceived. There was no ceremony of dedication until the exercises at the presentation of the Capitol statue of Hale, where Charles Dudley Warner made the address of presentation after an eloquent prayer by Rev. Joseph Twitchell and Governor Lounsbury received the statue for the State. It was designed by Karl Gerhardt of Hartford and former Governors Hubbard and Waller, Hon. Robert Coit, Hon. Henry Barnard and Governor Lounsbury, and Hon. Edward Spicer Cleveland were active in obtaining the grant for its work. The dedication was on June 14, 1887.

On the Fourth of July, 1894, the residents of Huntington, Long Island, unveiled a memorial of Hale in the form of a granite column with a fountain at its base. This was to commemorate his capture and landing

there. Rev. H. Q. Judd made the prayer, Mr. Robert Lenox Belknap, chairman of the Local Nathan Hale association made the historical address, and General Stewart C. Woodford gave a fine oration. The memorial was accepted for the town by the Supervisor, George M. Tileston.

It remained for a public-spirited Englishman who could admire heroism, fortitude and patriotism to give a grand memorial to the embodiment of both in the young man who helped to render our history immortal.

Mr. George Taylor, member of a great Broadway firm, has developed a beautiful tract at Huntington which he has called Hale Site in memory of the martyr-hero of the Revolution.

And at his own expense and with great labor he has had a grand and rugged boulder moved from its original site and

placed in position with three bronze tablets recording the facts of Hale's stay, capture and landing at Huntington. The boulder weighs forty-five tons and is placed near the exact spot on the shore where stood the home of William Johnson, who gave shelter and information to Hale when he landed.

In 1901 the Norwalk chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution, which had been working earnestly for the cause, erected an ornamental fountain of fine design and most admirable lines in the main street of the city opposite the city armory.

At Norwalk Hale changed his captain's uniform for the sober disguise of a schoolmaster, and then crossed to Huntington.

The unveiling of the fountain was on Lexington Day, April 19, 1901, and addresses were made by General Russell

Frost, Rev. Edward Everett Hale, and Rev. C. M. Seleck and S. P. Cadman of Norwalk and Brooklen, respectively.

To the great exertions of the Norwalk chapter, D. A. R., and its regent, Mrs. Samuel Richard Weed, who interested even the school children, the memorial owes its successful and speedy completion.

The city accepted it through Mayor Glover in a sensible and eloquent patriotic speech.

Yale was to have had a statue of the hero for its 200th anniversary in 1901, but an unfortunate difference of opinion has deferred its erection. William Ordway Partridge, the sculptor, made a very fine design. There is no doubt that the original intention will be carried out at an early day.

Of the schoolhouses in which Hale

taught, the earlier, that at East Haddam, has been cared for by the Society of Sons of the Revolution.

It was a small building which was a long time ago removed from its original site and used as a dwelling. The research and patriotism of Connecticut Sons, aided by the efforts of Mr. Richard H. Greene of New York, were instrumental in preserving the relic.

The owner, the late Judge Attwood of East Haddam, with a grand generosity that is to prove a noble memorial of him in the minds of men, secured the building, and in 1890 it was presented to the Sons of the Revolution of New York State who transferred it to the Sons of Connecticut.

The house was placed on a grand site on the river bank, the gift of Governor Bulkeley who gave sufficient ground to

make an attractive park about it. In every way it was restored, and on the 6th of June, Hale's birthday, it was dedicated with fine ceremonies.

Prayer was offered by the Rev. Dr. Warren of New York, Morris P. Ferris presented the gift and former Governor Morgan G. Bulkeley, the president of the Connecticut society, accepted it in a telling speech. Several addresses followed, and a bronze bust of Hale was unveiled on the site where the building originally stood by the river. Enoch S. Woods of Hartford was the sculptor.

The largest and most imposing ceremony in honor of Hale which took place in Connecticut was that of Bunker Hill Day, June 17, 1901, when the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution formally celebrated the restoration of the Nathan Hale schoolhouse and turned it

over to the care of the Lucretia Shaw chapter, D. A. R., by whom it is now guarded.

There was strong effort made for several years to obtain possession of the old Union Grammar School which had been moved from its original site on the corner of State and Union streets where the Crocker House now stands, and whence it was moved to a site that was owned, with the building, by the R. T. Palmer Company. It was used as a dwelling-house, and when the Sons made overtures for its possession, the owners finally agreed to sell it for four thousand dollars.

This was a large sum, but it did not deter the patriotic society, which was greatly helped by New York men and the various chapters of the Daughters, and finally it was placed in the "Antientist Burial Place," the God's Acre of the fore-

fathers of the hamlet set apart for a burial place June 6, 1653.

With removing, rebuilding the under foundation and part of the flooring, and painting, in all ways making it the same as at the time Hale occupied it, the schoolhouse cost the society $6,000.

But the money was cheerfully given, for there is not a Son or Daughter who does not count it well spent to make this little red building stand for the patriotism of the past and present.

The dedicatory exercises were very notable. There was a great procession of the Sons of the American Revolution from New York and Connecticut, soldiers and marines from Fort Trumbull and U. S. Lancaster, with the apprentices from the latter. There were the bands of the city and the Lancaster, three companies of the Connecticut National Guard; the Hospital

Corps, the third section of the Machine Gun Battery, the Putnam Phalanx with a drum corps, the Moodus Fife and Drum Corps, the Seventh Artillery band, U. S. A., and United States Regulars from Fort Terry, the Sons of the American Revolution from many states in the Union and the Sons of the Revolution with the Nathan Hale School Drum Corps and 150 boys from the Nathan Hale Grammar School.

The exercises were held on a large platform on the old burial-ground, just beside the schoolhouse.

The Rev. Edwin S. Lines, State chaplain of the Sons of the American Revolution, offered prayer, then Ernest E. Rogers, the indefatigable mover for the success of the work, as president of the Nathan Hale branch of the society, welcomed the visitors to the city.

He said in part:

"We dedicate this building to the memory of Nathan Hale. If the exterior is kept in proper repair the sturdy frame of hand-hewn oak will endure for centuries. Let us consecrate it in the words of the immortal Webster delivered at the laying of the corner-stone of Bunker Hill monument, 76 years ago this very day. "We consecrate our work to the spirit of national independence, and we wish that the light of peace may rest upon it forever."

The response to the address of welcome was delivered by President Jonathan Trumbull of the Connecticut society, grandson of Washington's beloved "Brother Jonathan":

"Ten years ago, on the fifteenth, our society met at Lebanon to celebrate the res-

toration of the historic old war office and establish the building as an historic shrine. Within a year from that time, it fell to my lot to report on the possibility of securing the Nathan Hale schoolhouse at New London for the same purpose. The advice of those best informed on the subject was to wait—and we waited with intervals of discussion and re-investigation for eight years. At last we decided that we would wait no longer; and as the result of that decision the Nathan Hale schoolhouse, like the Lebanon war office, stands on record as the property of the Connecticut society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

"It is not the ownership of these two little buildings but rather the sacred trust which that ownership involves of which we are proud.

"The building now stands in charge of a permanent committee appointed, consisting

of the State regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the chapter regent of the Lucretia Shaw, New London, and the president, branch president and registrar of the Connecticut society, Sons of the American Revolution. In recognition of the especial interest and substantial aid given by the Lucretia Shaw chapter, it has been decided that the chapter shall have the use of the building as a home for the organization under the belief that in no other way can the purposes for which it stands be so well carried out.

"In this belief, Madame Regent for the State of Connecticut, I find it a most gratifying duty to place in your hands the key of this building for the purpose I have stated, acknowledging at the same time the cheering encouragement which, in your official position as a sister official, you have so freely and cordially given me, and assuring

you that, as Sons and Daughters in one glorious family, this day marks more strongly than ever the relation of brother and sister which our societies bear to each other."

Mrs. Sara Kinney, the State Regent of the Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution, replied in part as follows:

"Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen: In behalf of the Daughters of the American Revolution, in the State of Connecticut, and especially in behalf of the Lucretia Shaw chapter of New London, I beg to assure you, Mr. President, of our keen appreciation of your personal and official efforts to bring about a union of the patriotic interest of the societies of the American Revolution—an effort which comes to its happy consummation on this rare June

day. The patriotic organizations represented here to-day have always felt, and will always continue to feel, a proud and peculiar interest in the brief life, the flawless record, the tragic death of Nathan Hale, that splendid boy with heart of oak and a soul so loyal to God and country that its beautiful serenity was unshaken even when he stood within the ghastly circle of the hangman's rope.

"The Lucretia Shaw chapter accepts the honorable trust committed to it by the Sons of the American Revolution, and it cannot be doubted that the memories of a dead and gone past which must always linger about this old schoolhouse will serve to Sons and Daughters alike as a stimulus to greater devotion to the principles which actuated our forefathers, to a profounder love of country, to a more unswerving loyalty to our flag, and to a steadfast adherence to

whatsoever will best conserve the interests of the commonwealth of Connecticut. We shall not fail to live up to our high and happy privilege as Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, if we emulate the lofty spirit of the Connecticut boy who to "heart beat and drum beat" was led out to a so-called ignominious death on the 22d of September, 1776.

"It is with pleasure, Mr. President, that I deliver these keys to the Lucretia Shaw chapter into whose custody and care the Nathan Hale schoolhouse has been placed by the Connecticut society of the Sons of the American Revolution."

The keys were taken by the chapter regent, and then the bronze tablet which had cost $500 was unveiled by little Nathan Hale of Schenectady, N. Y., the grandson of the Rev. Edward Everett Hale and

great-great-grandnephew of the hero, while the Children of the American Revolution, under the direction of Mrs. Marian R. H. Lillie, saluted the flag which had been placed on the schoolhouse. They had worked hard to have their gift ready, and much credit should be theirs for their no small part of the programme.

The historical address was delivered by Prof. Henry P. Johnston of the College of the City of New York. The oration on the personal character of Hale was by the Hon. Walter S. Logan, president of the New York society, Sons of the American Revolution.

"The courage of Nathan Hale was of the sublimest sort. There are many men who can face a cannon's mouth without flinching. There are many men who could lead a forlorn hope and shout in triumph as

they fell. There are many men who are capable of performing the most heroic of deeds upon the battlefield, but there are few men who are willing to face, without flinching, death upon the scaffold, glorying in the opportunity. It is peculiarly appropriate that the Sons of the American Revolution should be the ones to commemorate this deed.

"It is also peculiarly appropriate that the passive instrument of this celebration should be a schoolhouse. Where, if not in the school where his character received its earliest formative influences and his mind acquired that clearness of vision which made him see his duty so clearly and follow it so unflinchingly; where, if not in this schoolhouse did Nathan Hale become the man who could be the greatest hero of American history?

"The country schoolhouse has done more

for Connecticut and for New England than we are wont to give it credit for. If you ask me why men have been able to go forth from this New England of ours to all parts of the nation and the world, carrying character and civilization to the wilderness, the desert, the prairie and the plain; why, when men of New England have gone forth they have made their impress upon every community they entered and every society of which they became a part; why, when men of New England have gone forth to build up the distant corners of the land, they have so often been sent back to represent new communities and new states in the national congress and in the public council, I tell you it is because here in New England we have had from the time that New England first began, the country schoolhouse.

"It has been the schoolhouse that has

built new Connecticuts on the banks of the Ohio and the Mississippi, on the slopes of the Rocky Mountains and on the shores of the distant sea. The country schoolhouse has been the most potent agency of our civilization.

"All New England may claim the credit for the schoolhouse, but Connecticut may claim it in an exceptional degree. In no spot upon the earth's surface were the plain average people of the community so well educated one hundred and fifty years ago, as here in this colony of Connecticut.

"You do well to preserve the schoolhouse where Nathan Hale received the first impress upon his character and the first inspiration for his mind.

"Whenever there has been work to do for humanity and liberty on land or sea, in peace or in war, Connecticut men have been found ready and willing to undertake

it. And the reason why Connecticut has been able to do so much and to exercise such an influence in the nation and in the world, has been due, more than to any other cause, to the country schoolhouse, which has dotted her hillsides and nestled in her valleys, which has been found everywhere and always within the reach of every boy and girl born within the State. You are celebrating to-day, not only the man who proudly went to his death for his country and for liberty, but the Connecticut schoolhouse and all that it has done for its country and for liberty.

"In this United States of ours, there are to-day nearly 40,000 members of the various chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution—a noble 40,000. We have scarce 10,000 sons. The only fair conclusion is that the women of America have four times the patriotism and civic virtue

of the men. When I learned to-day that the Nathan Hale schoolhouse was to be delivered to the State Regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution for safe keeping, I felt sure that that schoolhouse was in safe hands, safer in the hands of 40,000 Daughters than of 10,000 sons."

The Lucretia Shaw chapter to which the care of the schoolhouse has been intrusted was the first chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution or the first organization of a patriotic character to draw attention to the work of Hale. This was done at the celebration of the 296th anniversary of the founding of New London, May 6, 1894, when the chapter invited guests from the leading chapters and the Sons to hear the oration on Nathan Hale given by Miss Charlotte Molyneux Holloway. By request this was repeated at the

State Congress of the Daughters of the American Revolution in the Pequot House, New London, June 6, 1895. From that date the Daughters determined to work for the preservation of the Nathan Hale schoolhouse as suggested by the registrar of the chapter, Mrs. Catherine Dudley Bramble of New London. How the work has resulted is eloquently told by the red schoolhouse in the old burial-place of founders and patriots.

The Daughters have furnished the interior, laid a hard-wood floor, completely equipped the kitchen and have collected quite a number of historical relics. This schoolhouse is open for visitors in the afternoons and a lady is always in charge to show the interesting objects.

The poets have given to the fate of Hale all the tender and immortal commemoration which his romantic and

heroic history so well commands and inspires. President Dwight of Yale College has written a beautiful tribute:

"Thus while fond Virtue wished in vain to save,
Hale, bright and generous, found a hapless grave;
With Genius' living flame his bosom glowed,
And Science lured him to her sweet abode;
In Worth's fair path his feet adventured far,
The pride of Peace, the rising hope of War;
In duty firm, in danger calm as even—
To friends unchanging, and sincere to Heaven.
How short his course, the prize how early won,
While weeping friendship mourns her favorite gone."

Very, very beautiful and touching is this tribute from Virginia Frazer Boyle, a Daughter of the Revolution:

"There's night in the council chamber,
  There is gloom where the rebels meet,
There is death in the valley beneath them,
  And over their arms is defeat.

"The lines that were throbbing with valor,
  Have missed her white star in its sheen,
And the heels of the dastard deserter,
  Press hard in the spaces between.

"The glance of the council is eager,
  But the voice of the general is low;
He is seeking the bravest, the truest,
  To send in the camps of the foe.

"The silence of death is the answer—
  A scorn and a flash of the eye;
For those bronzed, rugged heroes of battles
  Will not stoop to the rank of a spy.

"But a voice rings out from the shadow,
  With the thrill of a clarion's flow,
'When my country has need, 'tis my service;
  Her honor is mine; I will go!'

"And in the first flush of his manhood,
The patriot burns in his eyes
As he changes the trappings of glory
And fame for the lowly disguise.

"On he speeds through the veil of the darkness;
The camp of the British is won—
Ay, the fate of the rebels is trembling,
But the dangerous mission is done.

"He has served her, the country he lives for—
Would die for, need that be end;
But halt to the ringing of hoofbeats,
Betrayed by the hand of a friend!

"Men die in the hot blood of battle,
And rot in the trench, face to face;
But, oh! those long hours of anguish,
The taunt of dishonor, disgrace!

"Ah, patriot, soldier, and lover,
Thy warriors call thee again,
And far o'er the hills for the bridal
She watches thy coming in vain.

"And the sigh of the waning September
Breaks soft on the blush of the sky,
While the grim forms of British are waiting
To mark how a rebel can die.

"No hand bears the last tender missives
That filled up the long night of woe;
They have hurled the white fragments about him,
That fall like the sleet upon snow.

"For those blue eyes look outward beyond them,
Above the gray world and its moan,
But no priest bends the knee for the shriving—
The soul in its grandeur is lone.

"They have bound the brave form for the hangman,
And pinioned the strong arms for death;
But afar from the old apple orchard,
Newborn, on a patriot's breath.

"The hills pipe a sonorous message,
The breezes repeat by the sea—
'I only regret, oh! my country,
I lose but this one life for thee!'

"Oh, motherland, these are thy jewels
That blazon the shield on thy breast;
Oh, motherlove, these are the truest—
The hearts that have loved thee the best!"

Every one is familiar with the poem of Francis M. Finch, recited before that Linonian Society in Yale in which Hale was so prominent a member. It should be known by all who love and revere the patriot:

"To drum beat and heart beat,
A soldier marches by;
There is color in his cheek,
There is courage in his eye;
Yet to drum beat and heart beat,
In a moment he must die.

"By starlight and moonlight,
He seeks the Britons' camp;
He hears the rustling flag,
And the armed sentry's tramp;
And the starlight and the moonlight
His silent wanderings' lamp.

"With slow tread and still tread,
He scans the tended line,
And he counts the battery guns,
By the gaunt and shadowy pine;
And his slow tread and still tread
Gives no warning sign.

"The dark wave, the plumed wave,
It meets his eager glance;
And it sparkles 'neath the stars,
Like the glimmer of a lance—
A dark wave, a plumed wave,
On an emerald expanse.

"A sharp clang, a steel clang,
And terror in the sound!
For the sentry, falcon-eyed,
In the camps a spy has found;
With a sharp clang, a steel clang,
The patriot is bound.

"With calm brow, steady brow,
He listens to his doom;
In his look there is no fear,
Nor a shadow trace of gloom;
But with calm brow, steady brow,
He robes him for the tomb.

"In the long night, the still night,
He kneels upon the sod;
And the brutal guards withhold
E'en the solemn word of God!
In the long night, the still night,
He walks where Christ hath trod.

"'Neath the blue morn, the sunny morn,
He dies upon the tree;
And he mourns that he can give
But one life for liberty.
And in the blue morn, the sunny morn,
His spent wings are free.

"But his last words, his message words,
They burn, lest friendly eye
Should read how proud and calm
A patriot could die.
With his last words, his dying words,
A soldier's battle-cry.

"From Fame-leaf and Angel-leaf,
From monument and urn,
The sad of earth, the glad of Heaven,
His tragic fate shall learn;
And on Fame-leaf and Angel-leaf
The name of HALE shall burn."

HALE GENEALOGY.

Nathan Hale was directly descended from Robert Hale, of Charlestown, Massachusetts, one of the early settlers of the "Bay Colony," in that State.

Robert Hale belonged to the family of Hales of Kent, England. There were in England at that time at least three large families of the name, belonging to different parts of the kingdom. These were the Hales of Kent, the Hales of Hertford, and the Hales of Gloucestershire. Of the last of these families was the celebrated Sir Matthew Hale, who was nearly contemporary with Robert Hale, the

emigrant to America, who was born in 1609 and died in 1676.

From the Hales of Hertfordshire spring the family of Thomas Hale, one of the early settlers of Newbury, Massachusetts. Of this family are a large part of those persons who now bear the name of Hale in New England.

Robert Hale, of Charlestown, and his descendants retained the coat of arms of the Hale family of Kent, to which, therefore, there seems no doubt that they belong.

This family existed in Kent as early as the reign of Edward III. Nicholas up Hales, then resided at Hales Place, Halden, Kent. His son, Sir Robert Hales, was Prior of the Knights of St. John, and Lord High Treasurer of England. He was murdered by Wat Tyler's mob, on

Tower Hill, in 1381. His brother, Sir Nicholas de Hales, was the ancestor of three subdivisions of the family, described in Halsted's Kent as the Hales of Kent, Coventry and of Essex.

To the Kent family belonged—we may say in passing down to the emigration of Robert Hales,—Sir James Hales, whose suicide by drowning led to the "Case of Dame Hales," reported by Plowden, and commented on by the clowns in Hamlet: "Sir James Hales was dead and how came he to his death? It may be answered by drowning, and who drowned him? Sir James Hales; and when did he drown him? In his lifetime. So that Sir James Hales, being alive, caused Sir James Hales to die, and the act of the living man was the death of the dead man. And then for this offense it is

reasonable to punish the living man who committed the offense and not the dead man."

Of the same family was Sir Edward Hales, the loyal companion of James II. in his exile, made by him Earl of Tenterden and Viscount Tonstall.

The name in England was spelt with a final "s" and without. Hale Place, near Canterbury, bears the same name as the New England family, and the residents spell their names with the "s."

Gen. I. 1. Robert Hale, who arrived in Massachusetts in 1632. He was among those who set off from the first church in Boston to form the first church in Charlestown, in 1632. He became a deacon in this church. He was a blacksmith by trade, but appears to have held many offices of trust in the town and

State, for he was appointed surveyor of new plantations by the General Court until his death, which was July 19, 1659. His wife's name was Jane. After his death she married Richard Jacobs of Ipswich, and died in July, 1679.

1st Robert Hale had

Gen. II. 2. Rev. John Hale; b. June 3, 1636; d. May 15, 1700. 3. Mary; b. May 17, 1639; m. —— Wilson. 4. Zachariah; b. April 3, 1641; d. June 5, 1643. 5. Samuel; d. 1679. 6. Joanna; b. 1638; m. John Larkin; d. 1685.

2. Rev. John Hale, graduated at Harvard College, in 1657. He was the first minister of Beverly, Massachusetts, when the church was separated from Salem, in 1867, and remained in this charge to his death. He was one of three chaplains to the New England ex-

pedition to Canada in 1690. He was taken prisoner, and afterward released. Two years after the Salem witchcraft excitement arose and engaged the attention of Mr. Hale, who participated in the examination of the accused and conducted the religious exercises. In October a person in Wenham accused Mrs. Hale of witchcraft, and the shock was sufficient to restore the minister to his senses. His own medicine cured him of his delusions, and he was eager to prove the thing was wrong. In 1697 he published "A modest inquiry into the nature of witchcraft and how persons guilty of that crime may be convicted; and the means used for their discovery discussed, both negatively and affirmatively, according to Scripture and experience." He further lamented the deceptions of

those who believed in the witchcraft delusion.

He married three times. First, Rebeckah Byles, daughter of Henry Byles of Sarum, England. She died April 13, 1683, aged 45 years. Second, March 3, 1684, Mrs. Sarah Noyes, of Newbury. She died May 20, 1695, aged 41; and third, August 8, 1698, Mrs. Elizabeth Clark, of Newbury, who survived him. By his first two wives he had the following children:

Gen. III. 1. (7) Rebeckah; b. April 28, 1666; d. May 7, 1681. 2. 8, Robert, b. November 3, 1638; d. 1719. He was the father of Colonel Robert Hale of Beverly, who accompanied Shirley to the siege of Louisburg. The male line in this family is extinct, the family mansion at Beverly has always been in the possession of his descendants.

3. (9) Rev. James; b. October 14, 1685; d. 1742. He was minister of Ashford, Connecticut, and left a son, James Hale, from whom a large family descended. Of these Robert Hale, b. 1749, was an officer in the Revolution.

6. (12) John; b. August 24, 1692. He was drowned by the oversetting of a boat in Wells River, the only person of the party, though an excellent swimmer. He left no sons.

5. (11) Joanna; b. June 18, 1689.

4. (10) Samuel; b. August 13, 1687; d. about 1724.

Of the children of Rev. John Hale, the fourth as named above was Samuel. He settled in Newbury, Massachusetts, and August 26, 1814, m. Apphia Moody; b. June 23, 1693. He lived in that part of the town called Newburyport, and there

all his children were born. He removed to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, where he died in 1724. His children were:

Gen. IV. 1. (13) Joanna, b. June 1715; d. about 1792; m. Captain Stephen Gerrish, of Boscawen, New Hampshire.

2. (14) Richard; b. February 28, 1717; d. June 1, 1802; lived and died at Coventry.

3. (15) Samuel; b. August 24, 1718; gr. H. C. 1740; d. July, 1807. He lived and died at Portsmouth.

4. (16) Hannah; b. January 24, 1720; m. Joseph Atkinson of Newbury, January 23, 1744; d. about 1791.

5. (17) John; b. January 16, 1712; d. about 1787.

Of 14, Richard, the second of these children, Captain Nathan Hale was the son. As the children of the rest were

therefore his cousins and connected with his life, their names and dates of birth are given:

13. Mrs. Joanna Gerrish and Captain Stephen Gerrish had issue.

Gen. V. 1. (18) Henry Gerrish; b. 1742 (m. 1777—he had seven children).

2. (19) Jenny; m. —— Ames; (m. 1777, had two children).

3. (20) Samuel Gerrish; b. 1748; (m. 1777—he had two children). Probably this was Colonel Samuel Gerrish, cashiered for conduct unworthy an officer at Bunker's Hill, and Sewall's Point, August 19, 1775, a sentence pronounced by the judge advocate "far too severe." When the battle was fought neither he nor his officers were commissioned.

4. (21) Enoch Gerrish; b. 1750; (m. 1777—he had two children).

5. (22) —— Gerrish (a son), b. 1756; d. August 24, 1777.

14. Richard Hale; born in Newburyport February 28, 1717; removed to Coventry, Connecticut, where he lived and died June 1, 1802. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph Strong, Esq., of that place on the 17th of May, 1746. She died April 2, 1767. He married again the "Widow Adams" of Canterbury, by whom he had no issue. The children of the first marriage:

Gen. V. 1. (23) Samuel; b. May 25, 1747; d. April 17, 1824, without issue.

2. (24) John; b. October 21, 1748; d. December 22, 1802, without issue.

3. (25) Joseph; b. March 12, 1750; d. April 29, 1784.

4. (26) Elizabeth; b. January 1, 1753; d. October 31, 1813.

5. (27) Enoch; b. October 28, 1753; d. January 4, 1837.

6. (28) Nathan; b. June 6, 1755; executed at New York, September 22, 1776.

7. (29) Richard; b. February 20, 1757; d. February, 1793.

8. (30) Billy; b. April 20, 1759; m. —— Booker, January 19, 1785; d. September 7, 1785.

9. (31) David; b. December 14–15, 1761, d. February 10, 1822.

10. (32) Jonathan; b. December 14-15, 1761; d. December 21, 1761.

11. (33) Joanna; b. March 19, 1765; d. April 22, 1838.

12. (34) Susanna; b. February 1, 1756; d. March, 1766.

15. Samuel Hale. of Portsmouth; b. August 24, 1718; gr. H. C. 1740; d. July, 1807. He taught the grammar

school at Portsmouth for many years; served in the old French war, and was at one time judge of the Common Pleas court. He married Mary, daughter of Thomas Wright of Portsmouth. Their children were:

Gen. VI 1. (35) Samuel, of Barrington; b. 1758; d. April 28, 1828. His sons were Samuel B. and John P. of Portsmouth; of the last of whom Hon. John P. Hale of the United States Senate was the son.

2. (36) Thomas Wright of Barrington; b. 1760.

3. (37) John; b. 1764; tutor at Harvard College from 1781 to 1786; d. 1791.

4. (38) William; b. August 6, 1765; m. Lydia Rollins, April 30, 1794; d. November 8, 1848, at Dover, New Hampshire, where he had resided, leaving five chil-

dren. He represented the State in Congress six years, and was often a member of the State Legislature.

16. Hannah Hale; b. January 24, 1720; m. Joseph Atkinson of Newbury, January 23, 1744. They lived at Boscawen, New Hampshire, where she died about 1791. They had issue:

Gen. IV. 1. (39) Samuel Atkinson.

2. (40) Simeon Atkinson.

3. (41) Susannah Chadwick.

4. (42) Hannah Atkinson.

5. (43) Sarah Atkinson.

17. John Hale; b. January 16, 1721-22. He lived at Gloucester (Cape Ann, Massachusetts), and died about 1787. He had issue;

Gen. V. 1. (44) Samuel (of New York).

2. (45) John.

3. (46) Benjamin.

4. (47) Ebenezer.

5. (48) Jane.

6. (49) Sally.

7. (50) Hannah.

Between eighteen and fifty on the list numbers are all the cousins of Nathan Hale, and under his father's family his brothers and sisters.

Here follow the children of his brothers and sisters:

23. Samuel Hale; oldest son of Deacon Richard Hale; lived at Coventry and died without issue April 17, 1824.

24. Major John Hale; second son of Deacon Richard Hale; b. October 21, 1748, m. Sarah Adams at Coventry, December 19, 1771, daughter of his father's second wife. They lived at Coventry, where he died, December 22, 1802, without issue. His death was sudden, and his widow,

eager to carry out his intentions, bequeathed one thousand pounds to trustees as a fund, the income of which was to be used for the support of young men preparing for missionary service, and in part to found and support the Hale Library in Coventry, to be used by the ministers of Coventry and the neighboring towns. She died November, 1803, in less than a year after him.

25. Lieutenant Joseph Hale, third son of Deacon Richard Hale; b. March 12, 1750; was with the army near Boston, and it is believed to the close of the war. He served both in Knowlton's and Webb's regiments. Soon after his brother Nathan's death, he was in the battle of White Plains, and a ball passed through his clothes. Subsequently he was for a long time stationed at New London,

where he became acquainted with Rebeckah Harris, daughter of Judge Harris of that place. They were married October 21, 1777. After the close of his service he settled in Coventry, but his constitution, which was naturally very strong, was broken, and he fell into a decline, and died April 30, 1784. leaving four children:

Gen. VI. 1. (51) Elizabeth; b. September 29, 1779; m. November, 1801, Zebediah Abbot, of Wilton, New Hampshire. They had four sons and five daughters.

2. (52) Rebeckah; b. January 9, 1781, m. October 1799, Deacon Ezra Abbot, of Wilton, New Hampshire. They had a large family of children, of whom three, Joseph Hale, Ezra and Abiel, graduated at Brown College.

3. (53) Mary Hale; b. November 23, 1782; m. in 1808, Rev. Levi Nelson, of Lisbon, Connecticut. No issue.

4. (54) Sarah Hale, b. November 27, 1783; died June 27, 1784.

26. Elizabeth Hale; oldest daughter of Deacon R. Hale; b. January 1, 1752; m. December 30, 1773, Dr. Samuel Rose, a surgeon in the army of the Revolution. He was a son of Dr. Rose of Coventry. He died in the winter of 1800-1. Their children were:

Gen. VI. 1. (55) Captain Joseph Rose; b. September 17, 1774, m. Milly Sweatland; settled in North Coventry as a blacksmith; d. about 1835, leaving several children.

2. (56) Nathan Hale Rose; b. November 18, 1776; grew up on the old homestead of his grandfather. He settled on

the farm previously occupied by his Uncle Richard. He married first Eunice, daughter of Deacon Talcott, of North Coventry. She died after a few years, leaving a daughter, who died young. He married, second, the widow —— Perkins of Lisbon, Connecticut, by whom he had three sons and one daughter.

3. (57) Fanny Rose; b. January 4, 1779; m. December, 1799, Sandford Hunt, of North Coventry, and died February 6, 1845, "an excellent woman." They settled in Batavia, New York. Of their family was Hon. Washington Hunt, of New York and Lieutenant Hunt of the United States army.

After the death of Dr. Samuel Rose, his widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Rose, married John Taylor, of Coventry. She died October 31, 1813. Their children were:

1. (58) Elizabeth Taylor; m. Nathaniel Hubbard, of Vernon, and afterward of Manchester, Connecticut.

2. (59) David Taylor; married and died in New York without issue.

27. Enoch Hale; fourth son of Deacon R. Hale; b. October 28, 1753; entered Yale College, with his brother Nathan, 1769; gr. 1773; studied theology, and on the 28th of September, 1779, was ordained a minister of Westhampton, Massachusetts, where he died, January 14, 1837, after an energetic and useful ministry of more than fifty-seven years. He was deeply affected by his Brother Nathan's fate, for he was profoundly attached to him. He married September 30, 1781, Miss Octavia Throop, of Bozrah, Connecticut, daughter of Rev. Mr. Throop, of

that place. She died August 18, 1839. Their children were:

Gen. VI. 1. (60) Sally Hale; b. August 2, 1782; m. Elisha B. Clapp, of Westhampton, Novembe 27, 1800; d. February 7, 1838, leaving seven children.

2. (61) Nathan Hale; b. August 16 1784; m. Sarah Preston Everett, of Boston, September 5, 1816.

3. (62) Melissa Hale; b. February 26, 1786; m. September 27, 1809, Henry McCall, of Lebanon, Connecticut. They had eight children.

4. (63) Octavia Hale; b. May 13, 1788; m. December 19, 1811, William Hooker, of Westfield, Massachusetts. They had four children.

5. (64) Enoch Hale; b. January 19, 1790; m. first, September 6, 1813, Almira Hooker; second, May, 1822, Sarah

Hooker; third, May, 1829, Jane Murdock; died November 12, 1848, without issue. He studied chemistry and medicine at Yale College and at Howard Medical School, and took his degree of M.B. at Cambridge, August 20, 1813. He practiced with distinguished success for a few years in Gardiner, Massachusetts, and for the rest of his life in Boston.

6. (65) Richard Hale; b. July 2, 1792; m. December 28, 1815, Lydia Rust, who died January 10, 1837. He died in 1839.

7. (66) Betsey Hale; b. June 2, 1794; m. July 2, 1818, Levi Burt of Westhampton. They had seven children.

8. (67) Sybilla Hale; b. September 3, 1787; m. 1819, Richardson Hall. They had nine children.

28. Nathan Hale died without issue.

29. Richard Hale; sixth son of Daecon

R. Hale; b. February 20, 1757; m. March 16, 1786, Mary Wright, of Coventry; he died February, 1793, at St. Eustatia in the West Indies, where he had gone in search of health. They had:

Gen. VI. 1. (68) Mary Hale; b. July 6, 1787; d. December 10, 1791.

2. (69) Laura Hale; b. August 30, 1789; m. her cousin, David Hale, then of Boston.

3. (70) Mary; b. January 25, 1791; d. October 2, 1793.

After the death of Richard Hale his widow married Nathan Adams of Canterbury, son of her father-in-law's second wife. They had no children. She died in 1820.

30. Billy Hale, seventh son of Deacon R. Hale; b. April 23, 1759; m. January 19, 1784, Hannah Barker of Franklin.

He died of consumption in 1785, leaving one son.

Gen. VI. 1. (71) Billy; died in early life.

31. David Hale, ninth son of Deacon R. Hale; b. December 14, 1761; graduated at Yale College, 1785; settled as minister in Lisbon, Connecticut. He married May 19, 1790, Lydia Austin; b. December 9, 1764; daughter of Samuel Austin, of New Haven. In 1804, in poor health, he was dismissed from the church in Lisbon and removed to Coventry, where he became a deacon of the church in 1806. He was also representative of the town and justice of the Court of Common Pleas. He died February 10, 1822. His widow died April 28, 1849. They had one child:

Gen. VI. 1. (72) David Hale; b. April

25, 1791; m. first his cousin, Laura Hale, January 18, 1815. She died July 25, 1824. He m. second, August 22, 1825, Lucy S. Turner, of Boston.

33. Joanna, second daughter of Deacon R. Hale; b. March 19, 1764; m. January 22, 1784, Dr. Nathan Howard, of Coventry. He died April 21, 1838, at the age of 77, and she the next day. They had nine children, all of whom died except:

Gen. VI. 1. (73) John Howard; b. November 10, 1784; m. Lucy Ripley, daughter of Judge Ripley, of Coventry; d. March 30, 1813. They had three sons, Chauncey, John and Ripley.

2. (74) Nathan Howard; b. March 20, 1795.

Of Nathan Hale's nephews are the following:

61. Nathan Hale; son of (27) Rev. Enoch

Hale; b. August 16, 1784; gr. Williams College 1804, LL.D. Harvard University. He conducted for more than forty years the Boston *Advertiser*. The active labors of his life are well known. He married September 5, 1816, Sarah Preston Everett, daughter of Rev. Oliver Everett, of the new South Church Boston. Their children were eleven in number, the fourth being the Rev. Edward Everett Hale, born April 3, 1822; m. October 13, 1852, Emily Baldwin Perkins, of Hartford.

HALE'S DIARY.

Hale's diary covers the time he left New London with his military company till, with the army from around Boston, he marched into New York. There are a few pages torn from the beginning and

one from the November entry. From September 30 till October 6 is missing, and the 16th of the latter month, then the entries are regular till December 31, 1775. On January 24, 1776, they are taken up again and run seven days. Two in February and four after he reached New York complete them.

"(Sep. 23d.) Cannon, 40 or 50, heard from the last stage to the present. Marched 3½ o'cl—and arrived (at) Watermans, (a private house and entertainment good) after a stop or two. 6½ o'cl., 6m.—tarried all night.

"24th, Mch'd 6 o'cl., mch'd from Olney's 2 miles, and reached Providence, but made no stop. Having march'd thro' the town with music, and mde a sht stp at the hither part, in the road, came 4 miles further to Slacks in Reho-

both, where we dined. 'Received Rehoboth, Sept. 24, 1775, of Nathan Hale, Lieut. of Maj. Latimer's company, five shillings and ten pence lawful money for the use of my house and other trouble by 3d Company. Eliphalet Slack.') receipt given to Hale. 4 o'cl., mch'd from Slaks 6m., and reached Daggett's in Attleborough, and put up, depositing our arms in the mttg House. Soon after our arrival joined by the Maj., who set out from home the nt bef——

"25th. March'd soon after sunrise—and came very fast to Dupree's in Wrentham, 9m. to Breakfast. Arv'd 9 o'cl. 11 set off, and 1½ P.M. arv'd (at) Hidden's, Walpole, and there dined and tarried till 4½ o'cl., and then march't to Dedham, 7m. and put up.

"Tuesday, 26th. Mch'd 5m. before

Breakfast to—For Dinner went 4½m. to Parkers, which is within a mile and a half from Camp. At our arrival in Camp found that 200 men had been draughted for a fishing party. Pitched our tents for the present in Roxbury, a little before sunset.

"Wednesday, 27th. Went to some of our lower works. 12 or 15 of the fishing party return and bring 11 Cattle and 2 horses.

"Thursday, 28th. Fishing party returned.

"Friday, 29th. Mch'd for Cambridge. Arv'd 3 o'cl., and camped on the foot of Winterhill, near Gen. Sullivan's 3 Comies, Majors C. Shipmans, Bostwick.

"Sat., 30th. Considerable firing on the Roxbury side in the forenoon, and some P.M. No damage done as we hear.

Join'd this day by Cpts. Perril and Levenwth about 4 o'cl.

"Octo. 6th, 1775. Near 100 Cans fired at Roxbury from the enemy. Shot off a man's arm, and killed one cow.

"7th. Some firing from Boston neck-nil. mat.

"8th. Sab. A.M. rainy—no meetg. Mr. Bird pr. Watertown P.M. Went to meetg on the hill. Mr. Smith pr.

"9th, Monday. Morng clear and pleasant, but cold. Exersd men 5 o'cl. 1 h.

"Tuesday, 10th. Went to Roxbury—dined with Doctr Wolcott at General Spencer's Lodg. P.M. rode down to Dorchester with a view to go on upon the point; but Coll Fellows told us he could give us no leave as we had been informed in town. Returned to Camp 6 o'cl.

"Wed., 11th. Bror Joseph here in the

morning—went Camge 12 o'cl—.sent a letter to Bror Enoch by Saml Turner. Inform'd by Joph that he was to be examin'd to-day for—Saw Royal Flynt—pr'd to write him. Rec'd a letter from Gil. Salt. wh inf. ye Schooner by St. Johns taken —all ye men kill'd, and yt 8,000 bushels of wheat had been taken and carried to Norwich fm Christ. Champlin's ship run agrd at Stoningtn. Rec'd letter 9th from Gil. Salt. Do 9th fm John Hallam—8th E. Hale. A heavy thunder showr in ye eveng.

"Thurs., 12th. Wrote 6 letters to N. L. Saw Cl Sage. Infmd Montreal held by Montgomery—St. Johns off'd to capitulate, but refusing to deliver guns, Johnson's terms were refused; but must soon surrender. P.M., went in to Cambridge. Took the Cambge paper—pd 3 coppers.

"Friday, 13th. Infmd by Lt. Col. that Col. Webb last night gave orders that Field Officers Lieutenants should wear Yellow Ribbons—put in one accordingly. Walkd to Misk for clothes.

"Sat., 14th. Mounted picket guard. Gov. Griswold at plough'd hill. Rumors of 25,000 troops from England.

"Sab., 15th. Mr. Bird pr. P.M. After meeting walked to Mystick.

"Tuesday, 17th. A Sergt.-Major deserted to the Regulars.

"Wed., 18th. A private deserted to the enemy. Last night a cannon split in our floatg battery when fired upon B. Common—1 of our men kill'd—another said to be mortally wounded—6 or 7 more wounded. Rec'd letters — G. Saltonstall, 16th—J. Hallam, 14th—E. Hallam, 15th—E. Adams, 16th. In Mr.

Sals. Letter rec'd news of the publishment of Thomas Poole and Betsy Adams on the 15th.

"Thursday, 19th. Wrote 4 letters—to Messrs. G. Sals, and John Hallam, and to Misses Bet. Adams and Hallam. 3 people inhabitants of Boston sd to have escaped on Roxy side last night. Several guns were fired at them, which were heard here on Winter hill. This morning one of our horses wandered down near the enemy's line, but they durst not ventured over to take him on account of Rifle placed at ye old Chimy ready to fire upon them. A sick man at Temples found to have the small pox.

"Friday, 20th. Wet and rainy. News from Roxbury yt 8 persons, 5 of them inhabitants, and 4 of them Sailors, made their escape last night from Boston to

Dorchester Point who bring accounts yt 10,000 Hanoverians & 5,000 Scotch and Irish troops are hourly expected in Boston. Cpt. Perrit ret'd sunset from Connecticut. News yt Col. Josh Trumbull, Commy Gen. was at the point of Death.

"Sat., 21st. Constant rain & for ye most part hard for the whole day. A letter communicated to offrs of ye Regt fm G. Washgtn to Coll Webb with orders to see what offrs will extend the term of service fm 6th Decemb' to 1st Jany—Col Webb issued orders for removing a man who was yesterday discovered to have ye small pox from Temple's house to ye hospital—but the offrs remonstrating, suspended his orders. Sun set clear.

"Sab., 22nd. Mounted piquet guard—had charge of the advance Piquet. Nil. mem. Mistick Commy refus'd to deliver

provsns to Compies which had had nothing for ye day. On which Cpt. Tuttle and 60 or 70 men went, and as it hapnd terror instead of force obtained the provisions. On Piquet heard Regrs at work with pick axes. One of our Centries heard their G. rounds give the countersign—which was Hamilton. Left P. guard and retd to Cp at sunrise on the——

"23d, Mon. 10 o'cl.,went to Cambridge wth Fld Comns officers to Genl Putnam, to let him know the state of the Regt and yt it was thro' ill usage upon the score of Provisions yt thy wld not extend their term of service to the 1st of Jany, 1776. Din'd at Browns--drk 1 Bottle wine—walk'd about street—call'd at Josh Woodbridge's on my way—and ret'd home about 6 o'cl. Rec'd confirmation

of day before yesterday's report yt Cpt. Coit mde Admiral. Rec'd Lett. Ed. Hallam, 15th.

"24th, Tuesday. Some rain. Wt to Mystick with clothes to be washed (viz. 4 shirts, Do. Necks, 5 pair Stockings, 1 Napkin, 1 Table Cloth, 1 Pillow Case, 2 Linen and 1 Silk Handkerchief). P.M. Got Brick and Clay for Chimney. Winter Hill came down to wrestle, wh view to find out our best for a wrestling match to which this hill was stumped by Prospect, to be decided on Thursday ensug. Evening prayers omitted for wrestling.

"25th, Wednesday. No letters.

"26th, Thursday. Grand wrestle on Prospect Hill—no wager laid.

"Friday, 27th. Messrs John Hallam and David Mumford arvd.

"Sat., 28th. Somewhat rainy.

"Sab., 29th. Went to meeting in the barn. One exercise. After meeting walk'd with Cpt. Hull and Mr. Hallam to Mystick.

"Sat., 28th. At night Sergt of the enemy's guard deserted to us.

"Monday, 30th. Some dispute with the Subalterns, about Cpt. Hull and me acting as Captain. The Col and Lieut. Col. full in it that we ought to act in that capacity. Brigade Majs and Genl Lee of same opinion. Presented a petition to Gen. Washington for Cpt Hull and myself asking the pay of Cpts. Refused. Mr. Gurley here at Dinr. P.M. Went into Cambridge with Mr. Mumford.

"Tuesday, 31st. Wrote letters to Father and Brother John and Enoch. P.M. Went to Cambridge—dr wine, &c., at Genl. Putnams.

"Wednesday, Novem. 1st. Mounted Piquet guard—nil mem. Rec'd 3 letters frm S. Belden, G. Salt., and B. Hallam. The 1st infmd he had no Scarlet Coating &c., and also reminded me of 20s. due to him by way of change of a 40s. Bill rec'd for Schooling (forgot). 2nd infmd that (as per Philadelphia paper) Peyton Randolph died of an Apoplexy 22nd ult. 3rd infmd Sheriff Christopher is dead.

"Wed., 1st. Came off from Piquet guard 10 o'cl. 11 do wt to Cmge with Cpt Hull—dined at Genl Putnams with Mr. Learned. Infmd Mr. Howe died at Hartford two months ago. Not heard of before. Coll Parson's Regt under arms to suppress ye mutinous procedings of Genl Spencer's Regt—one man hurt in the neck by a bayonet (done yesterday). Retnd to camp 6 o'cl.

"Thursday, 2nd. Rain constantly, sometimes hard. Receiv'd a flying Report that the Congress had declared independence.

"Friday, 3rd. Nil Mem.

"Sat., 4th. Mr. Learned and myself din'd at Coll Halls. Deacn Kingsbury's son visited me. P.M., Cpt Hull and myself wt to Prospect Hill.

"Sunday, 5th. A.M., Mr. Learned pr. John 13, 19—excellentissime. A little after twelve a considerable number of cannon from the enemy in memory of the day. Din'd with Cpt Hull at Genl Putnams. Rec'd news of the taking of Fort Chamblee with 80 odd soldiers, about 100 women & children, upwards of 100 barrels of Powder, more than 200 barrels of pork, 40 do of flour, 2 Mortars and some cannon. The Women, wives to

Officers in St. Johns, were brought to St. Johns and there their Husbands permitted to come out, and after spending some time with them return. Also News of a vessel taken by one of privateers Fr. Phia to Bn wh 104 pipes of wine—another from the West Indies with the produce of that country. Rec'd a letter from bro. Enoch. Nov. 1 Covntry pr. Daniel Robertson who is to make me a visit tomorrow. The paper in which the Officers sent in their names for new commissions return'd for more Subalterns. Ensns Pond and——put down th names. Those who put down their names the first offer, (are) Colls Webb and Hall, Capts Hoyt, Tuttle, Shipman, Bostwick, Perrit, Levenworth, Hull and Hale—Subs Catland.

"Monday, 6th. Mounted Piquet Guard

in the place of Cpt. Levenworth. A Rifleman deserted to the Regulars. Some wet. Day chiefly spent in Jabber and Chequers. Cast an eye upon Young's Mems, belongg to Col. Varnum—a very good book. Cmpt of ye bad condition of ye lower Piquet by Majr Cutler, &c. It is of the utmost importance that an officer should be anxious to know his duty, but of greater that he shd carefully perform what he does know. The present irregular state of the army is owing to a capital neglect in both of these.

"Tuesday 7th. Left Piquet 10 o'cl. Infmd Major Brooks applied for this Regt — new establishment—wh occasd much uneasiness among the Cpts. Rain pretty hard most of the day. Spent most of it in the Majr, my own and other

tents in conversation—some chequers—Studied yt best method of forming a Regt for review, of arraying ye Companies, also of marching round ye reviewing Officer. A man ought never to lose a moments time. If he put off a thing from one minute to the next, his reluctance is but increased.

"Wednesday, 8th. Cleaned my gun—pld some football, and some chequers. Some people came out of Boston via Roxby. Rec'd N. of Cpt Coit's taking two prizes, with Cattle, poultry, hay, rum, wine, &c., &c.—also verbal accounts of the taking of St. Johns.

"Thursday, 9th. 1 o'cl. P.M., an alarm. The enemy landed at Lechmere's Point to take off cattle. Our works were immediately all mann'd, and a detachment sent to receive them, who

were obliged, it being high water, to wade through water nearly waist high. While the enemy were landing, we gave them a constant Cannonade from Prospect Hill. Our party having got on to the point, marched in two columns, one on each side of the hill with a view to surround ye enemy, but upon the first appearance of them they made to their boats as fast as possible. While our men were marching on ye point, they were exposed to a hot fire from a ship in the bay, and a floating Battery—also after they had passed the hill. A few shot were fired from Bunker's Hill. The damage on our side is the loss of one Rifleman taken and 3 men wounded, one badly, and it is thought 10 or more cattle carried off. The Rifleman taken was drunk in a tent in which he and the one

who received the worst wound were placed to take care of the Cattle, Horses, &c., and give notice in case the enemy should make an attempt upon them. The tent they went in was taken. What the loss was on the side of the enemy we cannot yet determine. At night met with the Capts of ye new establishment at Genl Sullivan's to nominate Subalterns. Lieut. Burbank of Col Doolittle's Regt made my 1st L. Sergt Chapman 2nd & Sergt. Hurlburt Ensn.

"Friday, 10th. Went upon the hill to see my new Lieutenant Burbank and found him no great things. On my return found that my Bro. & Joseph Strong had been here and enquired for me. Immediately after dinner went to Cambr. to see them, but was too late. Went to headquarters—saw Genl Sullivan and

gave him a description of my new Lt. He said that he would make enquiry concerning him. On my return fo. the abo. Lt. at my tent, agrble to my invitation. After much roundabout talk persuaded him to go with me to the Genl to desire to be excused from the service. The Genl not being at home, deferr'd it till another time.

"Saturday, 11th Some dispute about the arrangement of Subs—but not peacefully settled.

"Sunday, 12th. This morning early a meeting of Capts. upon the above matter and not ended till noon. No meeting A.M. P.M. Mr. Bird pr.

"Monday, 13th. Our people began to dig turf under Cobble Hill. Inlistments delivered out. At night a man of our

Regt attempted to desert to the Regrs, but was taken.

"Tuesday, 14th. Some uneasiness about Subs. P.M. went to Cambr. Nil mem. Genl orders of today contained an account of the reduction of St. Johns. Digg sods under Cobble Hill continued."

Here follow, copied by Hale's hand, long and minute directions for the Guards--twenty-one articles in all, after which the diary continues:

"Wednesday, 15th. Mounted Main Guard. Heard read the articles of surrender of St. Johns. Likewise an account of the repulse of our piratical enemies at Hampton in Virginia, with the loss of a number of men (in a hand-bill). Three deserters made their escape from Boston to Roxbury last night. Two prisoners were taken this afternoon

in the orchard below Plough'd Hill, who, with some others were getting apples. They bring accounts that it was reported in Boston that our army at St. Johns was entirely cut off. That last week when they attempted to take our cattle at Sewel's point they killed 50 or 60 of our men, wounded as many more and had not a man either killed or wounded—whereas in truth we had only one that was much wounded, and he is in a way to recover. Rec'd a letter from J. Hallam.

"Thursday, 16th. Reliev'd from Piquet, 8½ o'cl. Confined James Brown of Cpt. Hubbels company for leaving the guard which he did yesterday toward night, and did not return until 4 o'cl. this morning, when he was taken up by the centinel at the door of Temple's

House. As it appeared he was somewhat disguised with liquor, I ordered him confined and reported.

"Thursday, 16th. Wrote two letters—1 to J. Hallam and 1 to G. Salt. It being Thanksgiving in Connecticut, the Capts and officers in nomination for the new army had an entertainment at T's house provided by Capt. Whitney's Sutler. They were somewhat merry and inlisted some soldiers. I was not present. About 10 or 11 o'cl. at night Orders came for reinforcing the Piquet with 10 men from a Comy.

"Friday, 17th. Rec'd an order from Colonel Hall for taking up at the Continental store 4 pr. Breeches, 6 Do Stockgs, 5¼ yds of Coats, 5 Do Shoes, 1 Shirt, 1 buff jerk. 1 pr. Indian Stockgs, all which I got but the Shirt, Indian

Stockgs, 1¼ yd. Coatng, and shoes which are to come to-morrow morning. Cpt Hull wth some of his soldiers went wth me to Cambge. Return'd after dark. Stop'd at Genl. Lee's to see about Furls for men enlisted, who ordered the general orders of the day to be read by which Furloughs are to be given by Colls only and not more than 50 at a time must have them out of a Regt. Genl orders further contained that the Congress had seen fit to raise the pay of the officers from what they were—and that a Cpt. upon the new establishment is to receive 26⅔ Dollars per month—a 1st and 2nd Lieut. 18 Dollars and Ensn 13½ Dollars.

"Saturday, 18th. Obtained an order from Colo. Webb upon the Q.M.G. for things for the soldiers. Went for them afterward—returned a little after Sunset.

"Sabbath Day, 19th. Mr. Bird pr.—one service only, beginning after 12 o'cl. Text Esther 8th, 6: "For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people, or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?" The discourse very good, the same as preached to Genl Wooster, his officers and Soldiers, at Newhaven, and which was again preached at Cambridge a Sabbath or two ago. Now preached as a farewell discourse. Robert Latimer, the Majr's son, went to Roxbury today, on his way home. The Majr who went there today and Lieut Hurlburt, and Robert Latimer F. who went yesterday, returned this eveng and bt accts that the Asia Man of War, stationed at New York, was taken by a Schooner armed with Spears, &c., which at first appeared to be going

out of the Harbour and was brot to by ye Asia and instead of coming under her stern, just as she coms up shot along side. The men who were before conceal'd immediately sprang up with their lances, &c., and went at it with such vigour that they soon made themselves masters of the ship. The kill'd and wounded are not known. This account not credited. Sergeant Prentis thought to be dying about 12 Meridian—some better if any alteratn this evening.

"Monday, 20th. Obtain'd furloughs for five men, viz., Isaac Hammon, Jabez Minard, Christopher Beebe, John Holmes, and William Hatch, each for 20 Days. Mounted mn Guard—4 prisoners, nil mem., until 10 o'cl., when an alarm from Cambr. and Prospect Hill occasioned our turning out. Slept little or none.

"Tuesday, 21st. Reliev'd by Cpt. Hoyt. Sergt. Prentis very low. Colo and some Cpts went to Cambr. to a Court M. to Cpt. Hubbel's Trial, adjourn'd from yesterday today. Evening spent in conversation.

"Wednesday, 22nd. Sergt. Prentis died about 12 o'cl. last night. Tried to obtain furlough to go to Cape Ann and keep Thanksgiving but could not succeed. Being at Genl Sullivans, heard Genl Green read a letter from a member of the Congress expressing wonder at the Backwardness of the Offrs and Soldiers to tarry the winter, likewise informing that the men inlisted fast in Pennsylvania and ye Jersies for 30s. per month. Some hints dropt as if there were to be a change of the"

Here a leaf of the Camp Book is gone

and the Diary recommences as follows:

"Saturday, 25th. Last night 2 sheep kill'd belonging to the Enmy. This morning considerable firing between the Centries. A Rifleman got a Dog from the regulars. Col. Varnum offer'd a Guinea for him the (same) that Genl Lee had offer'd. 10 o'cl. A.M. went to Cobble Hill to view. Another brought to the Ferry way—two there now. P.M. Went to Cam—Ret'd Sunset—Heard further that 200 or 300 poor people had been set on shore last night by the Regulars, the place not known, but sd to be not more than 6 or 8 miles from hence. Cannon were heard this forenoon, seeming to be off in the bay, and at some distance. Observed in coming from Cambr., a number of Gabines at Genl Lees, said to be

for the purpose of fortifying upon Lechmere Point.

"26th, Sunday. William Hatch of Major Latimer's Co. died last night, having been confin'd about one week—He has the whole time been in—and great part of it out of his Senses. His distemper was not really known. He was buried this afternoon—few people attended his funeral. Reported that the people were set ashore at Chelsea, and bring accts that the troops in Boston had orders to make an attack on Plough'd Hill, when we first began our works there, but the Officers, a number of them, went to Gen Howe and offer'd to give up their commissions, absolutely refusing to come out and be butcher'd by the Americans. Mounted main Guard this morning. Snowy. Lt. Chapman rec'd Re-

cruiting ordrs, and set out home, proposing to go as far as Roxby today.

"27th, Monday. Nil mem. Evening went to Gen. Lee's, whom I found very much cast down at the discouraging prospects of supplying the army with troops.

"28th, Tuesday. Promised the men if they would tarry another month they should have my wages for that time. Gen. Sullivan returned. Sent order to Fraser, Q.M., to send us some wood. Went to Cambr.—could not be served at the store. Return'd—observ'd a greater number of Gabines at Genl Lee's. Infml at Cambr. yt Genl Putnam's Regt., mostly concluded to tarry another month (This is a lie).

"29th, Wednesday. The Regt. drawn up before Genl. Sullivan's. After he

had made them a most excellent speech, desired them to signify their minds whether they would tarry till the 1st of Janury. Very few fell out, but some gave in their names afterwards. Read News of the taking of a vessel loaded wth ordinance and stores.

"30th, Thursday. Obtain'd a furlough for Ensn Hurlburt for 20 Days. Sent no letters to-day on account of the hurry of business.

"(December) 1st, Friday. Wt to Cambridge. A number of men about 20 in the whole, confined for attempting to go home. Our Regt this morning by means of Genl Lee unversally consented to tarry until the Militia came in, and by far the greater part agreed to stay until the first of Jan.

"2nd, Saturday. Orders rec'd to the

Regt that no one Officer or Soldier should go beyond Drum call from his alarm post. Went to Mystick with Gel Sullivan's order on Mr. Fraser for things wanted by the Soldiers who are to tarry till the 1st of January, but found he had none.

"3rd, Sunday. Wet weather. No pr. Evg got an ordr from B. G. Sullivan upon Colo Mifflin for the above mentioned articles not to be had at Fraser's.

"4th, Monday. Went to Cambridge to draw the above articles but the order was not accepted. Rec's News yt several prizes had been taken by our Prvateers, among which was a Vessel from Scotland, ballast'd with coal—the rest of her cargo dry goods. Cpt. Bulkley and Mr. Chamberlain, from Colchester with cheese. Purchased 107 lbs., for

which I gave an order upon Mr. Latimer.

"5th, Tuesday. Rec'd News of the death of John Bowers, Gunner in Cpt. Adams' Privateer, formerly of Majr Latimer's Company.

"6th, Wednesday. Upon main Guard. Nil mem. Rec'd some letters per Post. Col. Doolittle, Officer of the day, infmd that Col. Arnold had arrived at point Levi near Quebec.

"7th, Thursday. Went to Cambridge to draw things.

"8th, Friday. Did some writing. Went P.M. to draw money for our expenses on the road from N. L. to Roxbury, but was disappointed.

"9th. Nil mem. Saturday.

"10th. Struck our tents and the men chiefly marched off. Some few remain-

ing came into my room. At night Charles Brown, Daniel Talbot and Wm. Carver returned from privateering. Assisted Majr Latimer in making out his Pay Roll. Somewhat unwell this morning.

"11th, Monday. Finish'd the pay roll, and settled some accounts about 12 o'cl. Majr Latimer set out home. 1 or more Companies came in to-day for our relief.

"12th, Tuesday. A little unwell yesterday and to-day. Some better this evening.

"13th, Wednesday. On Main Guard. Rec'd and wrote some letters. Read the History of Philip.

"14th, Thursday. Went to Cambridge. Visited Majr Brooks, found him unwell with an ague. Capt. Hull taken violently ill yesterday—remains very bad to-day —has a high fever.

"15th, Friday. Nil mem.

"16th, Sat. Our people began the covered way to Lechmere's Point.

"17th, Sunday. Went to Mystick to meeting. Some firing on our people at Lechmere's Point.

"18th, Monday. Went to Cambridge to draw things. The Regt paraded this morning to be formed into two companies, that the rest of the officers might go home. Heard in Cambridge that Cpt. Manly had taken another prize with the Govr of one of the Carolinas friendly to us and the Hon Matthews, Esqr., Memb. of the Continental Congress, whom Gov. Dunmore had taken and sent for Boston.

"19th, Tuesday. Went to Cobble Hill. A shell and a shot from Bunker's Hill. The shell breaking in the air—one piece fell and touched a man's hat, but did no

harm. Works upon Lechmere's Point continued.

"20th, Wed. Went to Roxbury for money left for me by Majr Latimer with Genl Spencer, who refused to let me have it without security. Draw'd some things from the Store. Lt Catlin and Ensn Whittlesey set out home on foot.

"21st, Thursday. Wrote a number of letters. Went to Cambridge to carry them where I found Mr. Hempstead had taken up my money at Genl Spencer's and given his receipt. I took it of Hempstead giving my receipt. The sum was £36 10s. 0d.

"22d, Friday. Some Shot from the Enemy.

"23rd, Saturday. Tried to draw 1 month's advance pay for my Company, but found I could not have it till Mon-

day next. Upon which borrowed 76 Dollars of Cpt. Levenworth, giving him an order on Coll Webb for the same as soon as my advance pay for January should be drawn. 3¾ o'cl. P.M. Set out from Cambridge on my way home. At Watertown took the wrong road, and went two miles directly out of the way, which had to travel right back again. And after travelling 11 miles put up at Hammons, Newtown, about 7 o'cl. Entertainment pretty good.

"24th, Sunday. Left H's 6½ o'cl. Went 8 miles to Strayton's, passing by Jackson's at 3 miles. Breakfasted at Straytons. The snow which began before we set out this morning increases and becomes burthensome. From Straytons 9 miles to Stone's, were we eat Biscuit and drank cyder. 7 miles to Jones'

—dined—arv'd 3¼ o'cl. From there 2m. and forget some things, and went back—then return'd. To Dr. Reeds that night. Pass'd Amadons and Keiths 3m. Good houses. Within ½ m. of Dr. Reeds missed my road, and went 2 m. directly out of my way, and right back, travell'd —in the whole today, 41 miles. The weather stormy and the snow for the most part ancle deep.

"25th, Monday. From Dr. Reeds 8 o'cl. Came 1 or 2 m. and got horses. 4 m. to Hills and breakfasted—ordinary. 8 m. to Jacobs and din'd. Dismissed our horses. 6 o'cl. arv'd Keyes 11 m., and put up. Entertainment good.

"26th, Tuesday. 6 o'cl. A.M. Fr. K. 6 m. to Kindals—breakfasted. 10 on to Southwards—din'd. Settled accts with Lt Sage—dd hm 16 Dollars for paying

Soldiers 1 month's advance pay. Arr'vd home a little after sunset. One heel string lame.

"Wed., 27th. Heel lame. Wt to Br. Roses. Aunt Robs, Mr. Huntton and Cpt Robs.

"28th, Thursday. Unwell. Tarried at home.

"29th, Friday. Went to see G. C. Lyman. Call'd at Dr. Kingsbury's and Mr. Strongs.

"Jany, 1776, 24th, Wednesday. Set out from my Fathers for the Camp on horseback at 7½ o'cl. At 11 o'cl. arv'd at Perkins by Ashford Meeting House where left the horses, 12½ o'cl. mch'd— 3½ arv'd Grosvenors, 8 m. and 4½ at Grosvenor's Pomfret, 2m. and put up. Here met 9 Solrs fr. Windham.

"25th, Thursday. 6½ o'cl. mchd from

G. and came to Forbs 7m., but another Co having engaged breakfast there we were obliged to pass on to Jacobs (from Grov. 18m.)—After Breakfast went 8m. to Hills, and dr. some bad cyder in a worse tavern. 7 o'cl. arv'd Deacon Reeds, 5 m. Uxbridge, and ½ comy put up, myself wth remainder passed on to Woods 2m.

"26th, Friday. 7 o'cl. fr. Woods 4m. to Almadons Mendoreld—breakfasted. 17m. to Clark's, 10 o'cl. Mchd about 11 o'cl.—arv'd at Ellis' 5½ where drank a glass of brandy, and proceeded on 5½ to Whitings. Arv'd 2 o'cl. Arv'd at Barkers in Jamaica Plains, but being refused entertainment were obliged to betake ourselves to the Punch Bowl where leaving the men 11 M., went to Roxby. Saw Genl Spencer, who tho't it best to

have the men there, as the Regiment were expected there on Monday or Tuesday. Indians at Genl Spencers. Retd to Winter Hill.

"28th, Sunday. Went to Roxby to find barracks for 11 men that came with me, but not finding good ones, ret'd to Temple's House where the men were arv'd before me. In the evening went to pay a last visit to General Sullivan with Col. Webb and the Cpts. of the Regt.

"29th, Monday. Nil mem.

"30th, Tuesday. Removed from Winter Hill to Roxby.

"Feby 4th, 1776. Sunday.

"Feb. 14th, 1776, Wednesday. Last night a party of Regulars made an attempt upon Dorchester, landing with a very considerable body of men, taking 6 of our guard, dispersing the rest and burn-

ing two or three houses. The Guard house was set on fire but extinguished.

"(New York) July 23d, 1776. Report in town of the arv'l of twenty S. of the line in St. Lawre River. Doct. Wolcott and Guy Richds Jun. here frm N. L. Rec'd L fr. G. Saltonstall.

"Aug. 21st. Heavy storm at night. Much and heavy thunder. Capt. Van Wyke and a Lieut. and Ensn of Colo McDougall's Reg't kill'd by a Shock. Likewise one man in town belonging to a Militia Reg't of Connecticut. The Storm continued for two or three hours for the greatest part of which time (there) was a perpetual Lightning and the sharpest I ever knew.

"22d, Thursday. The enemy landed some troops down at the Narrows on Long Island.

"23rd, Friday. Enemy landed more Troops—News that they had marched up and taken Station near Flatbush, their advce Gds. being on this side near the Woods—that some of our Riflemen attacked and drove them back from their post, burnt 2 stacks of hay and it was thought kill'd some of them—this about 12 o'cl. at Night. Our troops attacked them at their station near Flath, routed and drove them back 1½ miles."

CHAPTER XVI.

HALE'S LETTERS, AND LETTERS TO HALE.

From New London, the 2d of May, 1774, to Thomas Mead, at New Haven.

This is the first opportunity I have of acknowledging your favour of last winter. I was, at the receipt of your letter in East Haddam (alias Modos), a place which I, at first, for a long time, concluded inaccessible, either by friends, acquaintance or letters. Nor was I convinced of the contrary until I re(cei)ved yours & at the same time two others from Alden and Wyllys, which made me, if possible, value your letter the more.

It was equally or more difficult to convey anything from Modos. True, I saw

the bearer of yours (Mr. Medcaff) some few days before he set out for New Haven, and desired the favour of sending some letters by him. Accordingly, I had written letters to you, Alden and Wyllys with one or two others, but upon enquiry found that Mr. Medcaff was gone too soon for me. Since which I have scarce had an opportunity of sending towards N. Haven.

I want much to receive a letter from you and a full history of the transactions of the winter. I have heard many flying reports, but know not what to conclude as to the truth of them. Upon the whole I take it for certain that the Quintumviri have been massacred, but in what manner I have not been sufficiently informed. From what I can collect, I think probable you have had some high doings, this winter, but expect a more full account of these matters in your next,

I am at present in a school in New London. I think my situation somewhat preferable to what it was last winter. My school is by no means difficult to take care of. It consists of about 30 scholars, ten of whom are Latiners and but six writers. I have a very convenient schoolhouse and the people are very kind and sociable.—I promise myself some more satisfaction in writing and receiving letters from you than I have as yet had. I know of no stated communication but without doubt opportunities will be very much more frequent than when I was at Moodus.—For the greater part of the last year we were good neighbors, and, I have always thought, very good friends. Surely, so good on my part, that it would be matter of real grief to me should our friendship cease.—The only means of maintaining it is in constant writing; in the practice of which I am ready

most heartily to concur with you and do hope ever to remain, as at present,

Your Friend and
Constant well wisher,
NATHAN HALE.

New London, May 2,
A. D. 1774.

Hale to his Uncle, Samuel Hale, at Portsmouth.

NEW LONDON, CONN., Sept. 24, 1774.

RESPECTED UNCLE:

My visit to Portsmouth, last fall, served only to increase the nearness of your family and make me the more desirous of seeing them again. But this is a happiness which at present I have but little prospect of enjoying. The most I now hope for is that I may have the satisfaction now and then to hear from my Uncle and Cousins by letter.

I can tell you but little of my father or

his family, being situated about 30 miles from them. I have not visited them for near three months, but have heard from them somewhat indirectly within a few days. I understand they are well. My eldest sister Elizabeth was married last winter (as you have doubtless heard) to Sam'l Rose, son to Doct'r Rose, and has, I suppose, a prospect of a very comfortable living. As to any further particulars of my Father or his family, I can mention nothing. My own employment is at present the same that you spent your days in. I have a school of thirty-two boys, about half Latin, the rest English. The salary allowed me is £70 per annum. In addition to this I have kept, during the summer, a morning school, between the hours of five and seven, of about 20 young ladies; for which I have received 6s. by the quarter. The people with whom I live are free and

generous, many of them gentlemen of sense and merit. They are desirous that I would continue and settle in the school and purpose a considerable increase of wages. I am much at a loss whether to accept their proposals. Your advice in this matter coming from an Uncle and from a man who has spent his life in the business, would, I think, be the best I could possibly receive. A few lines on this subject, and also to acquaint me with the welfare of your family, if your leisure will permit, will be much to the satisfaction of

Your most dutiful Nephew,

NATHAN HALE.

P. S.—Please to present my duty to my Aunt, and fondest regards to all my cousins. If no other opportunity of writing presents, please to improve that of the Post.

Addressed: To

MAJOR SAMUEL HALE, at Portsmouth.

Hale to Dr. Aeneas Munson at New Haven.

NEW LONDON, NOVEMBER 30, 1774.

SIR,

I am happily situated here. I love my employment, find many friends among strangers; have time for scientific study, and seem to fill the place assigned me with satisfaction. I have a school of more than thirty boys to instruct, about half of them in Latin, and my salary is satisfactory. During the summer I had a morning class of young ladies—about a score—from five to seven o'clock; so you see my time is pretty fully occupied, profitably, I hope, to my pupils and to their teacher.

Please accept for yourself and Mrs. Munson the grateful thanks of one who will always remember the kindness he ever experienced whenever he visited your abode.

Your friend, NATHAN HALE.

Hale to Proprietors of Union Grammar School, New London.

GENTLEMEN:

Having received information that a place is allotted me in the army, and being inclined, as I hope, for good reasons, to accept it, I am constrained to ask as a favor that which scarce anything else would have induced me to, which is to be excused from keeping your school any longer. For the purpose of conversing upon this and procuring another master, some of your number think it best there should be a general meeting of the proprietors. The time talked of holding it is 6 o'clock, this afternoon, at the schoolhouse. The year for which I engaged will expire within a fortnight, so that my quitting a few days sooner, I hope, will subject you to no great inconvenience.

School keeping is a business of which I was always fond, but since my residence in this town, everything has conspired to render it more agreeable. I have thought much of never quitting it but with life, but at present there seems an opportunity for more extended public service.

The kindness expressed to me by the people of the place, but especially the proprietors of the school, will always be gratefully remembered by, gentlemen, with respect, your humble servant,

NATHAN HALE.

Friday, July 7, 1775. To John Winthrop, Esq., Richard Law, Esq., &c. &c.

Letters from correspondents to Nathan Hale.

WINDSOR (not East) Jany 20, 1773.

SIR:—

In my present unlucky situation I have

just received yours of day after Thanksgiving; from which I am at loss to determine whether you are yet in this land of the living, or removed to some far distant and to us unknown region; but this much I am certain of, that if you departed this life at Modos, you stood but a narrow chance for gaining a better.

At the top of the page, I denominate my present situation unlucky; in one sense it is so, but on many accounts I can't but say that I am well pleased with it. By confining myself to a school I am deprived of the pleasure of many agreeable rides among my friends about the country in which I had determined to spend the winter with this further aggravation, that till now you have not known where to direct for me, & perhaps have entertained the suspicion that I was careless about returning an answer to yours. On the other hand my school is

not large, my neighbors are kind and clever and (summatim). My distance from a house on your side of the river which contains an object worthy the esteem of every one, and as I conclude, has yours in an especial manner, is not great; why should I complain? For no other reason but that I cannot enjoy the company of yourself with some other special friends. I have lately seen your brother at the other side of the river, who informs me that he is very pleased with his school.

Thus far, sir, I conclude by wishing you in your business, the greatest success.

Your sincere friend,
& huml sert,
WM. ROBINSON.

Timothy Green to Hale at East Had. dam:

This is the continuance of a correspon-

dence that begun between Hale and Mr. Green some months previous when the former applied for the Union Grammar school. Hale was then at the school in Moodus, or East Haddam, which he had received in October, 1773, after his graduation, and where he remained but for the short period of five months, leaving it in March, 1774.

Though he wrote to his friends saying the town had some agreeable features, it was very plain that he was not satisfied there, probably because of the isolation from all his friends and the impossibility of getting news from or to them.

He had heard of the incorporation of the Union Grammar school at New London, and was familiar with the name of Timothy Green, for he doubtless read the paper published by the latter, The Connecticut Gazette, the patriot's medium of communication in the colony.

There were twenty-four proprietors of the school, namely: John Winthrop, Guy Richards, John Richards, Capt. Richard Deshon, Richard Law, Duncan Stewart, the English collector, Capt. Robinson Mumford, Thomas Mumford, Capt. Joseph Packwood, Capt. William Packwood, Roger Gibson, Winthrop Saltonstall, David Mumford, Silas Church, Capt. Michael Melalley, Capt. Thomas Allen, Capt. Charles Chadwick, Mr. Samuel Belden, Jeremiah Miller, Capt. Russell Hubbard, Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., Capt. John Crocker, Dr. Thomas Coit and Timothy Green.

That he early tried to leave Moodus was shown by the letter of Mr. Green, who wrote to him in December, saying, "I have shewed Mr. Huntington's Letter and the sample of your writing enclosed in it to several of the Proprietors of the School in this Town who have desired me to inform you that there is

a probability of their agreeing with you to keep the school; and for that reason desire that you would not engage yourself elsewhere till you hear further from them."

(The Mr. Huntington referred to was Hale's beloved teacher—Rev. Joseph Huntington.)

In the meantime the school had a teacher in Phineas Tracy of Norwich, and on February 4, Mr. Green wrote again to Hale, asking him to wait one week more and then came this subjoined letter:)

N. London, Feb. 10, 1774.

Sr.

Since my last to you, the Proprietors of the new School House in this Town have had a meeting and agree that you should take the School for one quarter, at the rate of $220 Dols. per ann., to be paid at the end of the qtr. of which I am desirous to acquaint you. Am not able to inform you

when Mr. Tracy's quarter will expire, but this will do when I'm acquainted by a line from you whether we may depend on your taking the school, which you will please to write me pr. first oppo.

It is the desire of the Proprietors that you would come down two or three days before Mr. Tracy's quarter expires that they may be certain of the school's being immediately supplied with a master—in which case it is agreed that your wages shall commence from the time of your arriving here. —I am, sir, &c. TIMO. GREEN.

Mr. Tracy's time will be up about the middle of March.

Gilbert Saltonstall to Hale in Camp.

NEW LONDON, Oct. 9, 1775.

DEAR SIR,

By yours of the 5th I see you're Stationed in the Mouth of Danger. I look upon yr

Situation more Perilous than any other in the Camp.—Should have tho't the new Recruits would have been Posted at some of the Outworks, &c. and those that have been inure to Service advanc'd to Defend the most exposed Places—But all things are concerted and ordered with Wisdom no doubt —The Affair of Dr. Church is truly amazing from the acquaintance I have of his publick Character I should as soon have suspected Mr. Hancock or Adams as him.

Last Saturday a ship of 200 tun run aground off Stonington loaded with Wheat, it's the Ship that some time ago purposely fell in the Hands of the Wallace at Rhode Island wh a load of Flower, she is owned by Christo Champlin of Newport, when the Fishing Boats hail'd them they gave no Reply and soon after run on the Shoals as above, the Com. of Stonington went to unloading her immediately & sent off per Capt

Niles who lay in this Harbor to come round to Stonington to protect her against any small Tender which should happen that way, he up Anchor and went round forthwith ; the Ship is now in this Harbor (came in this Morn) her Cargo is principally taken out in lighters and sent to Norwich, where she will follow as soon as the Wind permits, for she can't beat up, having lost her Masts in the Gale the 10th Sept. Young Dr. Mumford has Just brought this paper from New York.

I have extracted all the material News —should have sent the Paper, but it is the only one in Town and everyone is Gaping for News.

You'll excuse the writing, as I am in a great hurry I scratch away as fast as I can.

Your Sincere Friend,

GILBERT SALTONSTALL.

Esteemed Friend,

Your various Letters duly received.—It was no unwillingness in me that prevented my answs in course. The Honest Reason though not a reputable one, I know will excuse Me to you, I'll therefore give it. I defer'd and defer'd to the last mom't, and then something turned up tantamount to a sore Finger and in fact prevented me.

Doctr Church is in close Custody in Norwich Goal, the Windows boarded up and he deny'd, the use of Pen, Ink and Paper, to have no converse with any Person but in the presence of the Goaler and then to Converse in no Language but English. Good God what a fall—

You saw in the paper the Address to the King from the Merchts &c. of Manchester —Notwithstanding their pretending their Resources are many, and so large that the

Americans' Nonimportation & exportation will be like the light dust of the Ballance, yet to everyone who will turn it in his thoughts, it's utterly impossible but that ye prodigeous Consumption of British Wares & Merchandize from Georgia to Nova Scotia including Canady the Reduction of which I consider as already compleated must affect them sensibly and they must recognize the consequence of America— .

I wish New York was either ras'd to the Foundation or strongly garisoned by the American Forces. When the Army is new modled, send me a List of the Arrangements. Are any of the Connecticut Companies to be disbanded? The Majors &c.—what are to become of them?

My Compliments to S. Webb and Hull and other Friends—Hempsted will wait

no longer—Good B'y'e write me a line—the News you can muster.

Yr &c.

GILBERT SALTONSTALL.

Nov. 27th, 1775.

NEW LONDON, Decr. 4th, 1775.

DEAR SIR,

The behaviour of our Connecticut Troops makes me Heart sick that they who have stood foremost in the praises and good Wishes of their Countrymen, as having distinguished themselves for their Zeal and Publick Spirit should now shamefully desert the Cause; and at a critical moment too, is really unaccountable—amazing. Those that do return will meet with real Contempt, with deserv'd Reproach—it give me great satisfaction that the officers universally agree to tarry—that is the Report, is it true or not? May the God who

has so signally appear'd for us since the commencement of our troubles interpose, that no fatal or bad Consequence may attend a dastardly desertion of his Cause.

I want much to have a more minute Acct of the situation of the Camp than I have be enable to obtain. I rely wholly on you for information.—

Your

GILBERT SALSTONSTALL.

NEW LONDON, Decr. 18th, 1775.

DEAR SIR.

I wholly agree with you in the agreables of a Camp Life, and should have try'd it in some Capacity or other before now, could my Father carry on his Business without me. I propos'd going with Dudley, who is appointed to Commn a Twenty Gun ship in the Continental Navy, but my Father is not willing and I

can't persuade myself to leave him in the Eve of Life against his consent.

Yesterday week the Town was in the greatest confusion imagineable; Women wringing their Hands along Street; Children crying, Carts loaded till nothing more would stick on, empty ones driving in; one Person running this way; another that, some dull, some vex'd, none pleas'd, some flinging up an intrenchment, some at the Fort preparing the Guns for Action, Drums beating, Fifes playing; in short as great a Hubbub as at the confusion of Tongues; all this occasioned by the appearance of a Ship and Two Sloops off the Harbor, spos'd to be part of Wallace's Fleet.—When they were found to be Friends, Vessels from New Port with Passengers, ye consternation abated, and all fell to work at the Intrenchment, which runs from N. Douglasses to S. Bills Shop—they have been at Work ever

since yesterday Week when the Weather would permit, they work'd Yesterday at Winthrop's Neck and are at it there to-day —in some respects we are similar to a Camp for Sunday is no Day of rest now.—You would hear the small Chaps (who mimick Men in everything they can) cry out, "Cut down the Tories Tres" there is not one of Capt —— Willows remaining in his lot back of his House—they are appropriated to a better use than he would ever have put them to.—The Breastwork is much the better for them.

I might inform you of many little bickerings that occur daily, but as those that raise them are of no importance, and the Evils (if any) are only local, it is not worth while to repeat them; Besides you know the Genius of the Town is a restless, discontented Spirit.

When I have observed the Malice and

Envy which rages to a Flame in so many Breasts, the Slander, the illiberal & ungenerous Reflections which serve as Fuel to those Hellish Vices, I lament the Depravity of the Human Heart, and fall little short of a Misanthropist. But when I come across a Person of Candour, Reason, Justice and Sincerity with their attendant Virtues, (I'd almost said a Person of either of those Endowments) I feel a generous glow within me despise the base light in which I view'd Human Nature, & become reconciled to my Species.

The Soldiers can give no other Reason for not Enlisting than the old woman's. They wou'd not, cause they wou'd not.

My Compliments to Capt Hull—am very sorry to hear of his Illness, hope this will find him recruited.

I am with Sincerity Your Friend

GILBERT SALSTONSTALL.

Roger Alden to Hale in Camp.

N. HAVEN, Novembr. 28th, 1775.

DEAR SIR:—

If you had only once thought how much pleasure it would have given me to receive a letter from you in your present character and situation, I am sure you could not have neglected writing to me by Captain Leavenworth.

If the life and business of a soldier have worn off all that friendship and tenderness for me which you have so often expressed by words and actions I shall try to reconcile myself to the misfortune and promise myself no more happiness and satisfaction from him whom I once esteemed among the number of my best friends.

The cares, perplexities and fatigues of your office are matters sufficient to vindicate your conduct and the duty which you

owe to your own honor and the interest of your country is sufficient to employ your whole time and to justify you in dispensing with the obligation of your old friends and acquaintances.

I almost envy you your circumstances; I want to be in the army very much; I feel myself fit to relish the noise of guns, drums, trumpets, blunderbuss and thunder, and was I qualified for a berth and of influence sufficient to procure one I would accept it with all my heart. I would accept of a lieutenancy but would prefer an adjutancy; but other more fortunate young persons are provided for and I, poor I, must make myself contented where I am. Think of my condition and then imagine how highly I appreciate yours. Give my love and compliments to Keyes and Woodbridge, tell them I shall be very careful to answer all their letters as your own. After you

have thought over all this, tell yourself that no one loves you more than R. A.

ROGER ALDEN.

Thomas U. Fosdick to Hale at Camp.

NEW LONDON, Decr. 7, 1775.

DEAR SIR,

Ever since the uneasiness which I have heard persisting amongst the Connecticut Troops, I've formed a Resolution to go down to the assistance of my countrymen, to facilitate which I have just resigned my office as Sergeant in Col. Saltonstall's com'y —I make no doubt, Sir, but you can assist me to some such office, as I should choose to be in that station under you in particular; if not, I am determined to come down—a hearty Boy, undaunted by Danger. Ensign Hurlbut will write you concerning the above.

Your very Humble Servt.

THOS. UPDIKE FOSDICK.

John Hallam to Hale.

New London, Decr. 10, 1775.
Sunday Evening.

Dear Sir.

I rec'd yours by the Post, which tho' short, believe me was very acceptable; your being on Picquet is a sufficient excuse that you wrote no more—I must make an excuse for the shortness of mine of a similar kind; we have at length concluded to intrench along our Street from Capt. N. Douglass's to Capt. Wm. Packwood, which we began—Friday afternoon, on Saterday we worked & likewise all this Day, occasion'd by an alarm & to-morrow and next Day we expect our Country Friends in to help us; we've had upward of 200 Volunteers to work. The Alarm I mention'd was thus. Early this morning we rec'd an Express from Stonington, that a Ship and Tender was coming in to their Harbor & several more was seen in the

Offing, a few Hours after she made her appearance round Eastern Point; Judge you of the confusion. I never saw greater nor did I ever see Men worke with such spirit & prepare to fight with more resolution.

I think it impossible that the same numbers of Men in the same time could do more work tho' most of us unus'd to the spade and Pickax as witness my hands all of a blister, the particulars of our proceeding I ned not mention, but you may depend on't we did everything we could; but to our great joy by means of a spy-Glas as the ship drew nearer we discover'd hr to be a Merchantman.

I had like to forgot to tell that about 100 Men have been at work this week past on the Ledge of rocks about half way from the water's edge to the top of Groton Hill down by Chester which Place they mean to fortify well, the Col is likewise with his

Men building a good battery on Winthrop's Neck, at the same time our Intrenchments go on briskly; thus you see we have at length waked from our Lethargy.—We have so many demands for men that your Com'y fills slow. Your Ensan has in all about 16, your Lieut but few what George tells me he has wrote you is perhaps the reason of your Lieut. Poor success—the Coll Compy is not quite full. Shaw and Mumford by permit of the Congress have near a dozen Vessels fitting out for Powder, Dudley Saltonstall beating up for Volunteers as he is appointed Capt of a Thirty Gun Frigate by the Congress, Capt N. Saltonstall is his first Lieut. there is a number of recruiting officers among us besides yours, so that Your success is as good as you can expect—every Day brings accts of some Damage done our vessels by the Gale of the 9th. Am Sn Yrs. J. H.

Ensign George Hurlbut to Hale
at Camp.

New London, December 11th, 1775.

Kinde Sir—

After Returning You My Sincere Thanks I would Inform You I Received Your Oblidging Letter Which was Dated of the 7th Insant wherein You Informs me the soldiers was going Home a Sunday —I should be very glad sir if You would Inform me how The minds of our soldiers is—when I Came awa They ware very Backward about Staying. When I was at Roxbury they ware all in Confusion, that had about 30 Under Guard that was bound home, I was Almost Discour they ware all our Conneticut men—you May Depend upon it, sir, they will all Return Again, their friends will Receive them Very Cool —I will acquaint You a Little how they Go

on hear—when I was at Breakfast Yesterday the News Come that their was 4 ships Turning Round fishers Island and the Old Women began to Preach and Cry we shall all Die. By the Great Gun Bullets, I Have not took so much Pleasure since I Have Been hear as did Yeasterday when I Long'd for You to be hear. They all hands worke a Sunday—They have Begun to Intrench all A Long street.

But Least I should weary Your patience I will Conclude with my Compliments to Capt Hull and the Majr if he is their—

From your sincere Friende,

HURLBUT.

Elihu Marvin to Hale

(Marvin Robinson and Alden were Hale's classmates. Marvin was teaching school at Norwich; Robinson at Windsor and Alden at New Haven.)

Norwich, 15th Decr 1775.

Sr.

Three months at Cambridge and not one line. Well, I can't help it. If a Capt's Commision has all this effect, what will happen when it is turned into a Colonel's.

Polly hears of one and another at New London who have letters from Mr. Hale, but none comes to me, Polly says.

Mrs. Poole was at Norwich some time since and desired me to enclose a letter for her which I engaged to do, but I was unfortunately taken sick the night the man sat out, and through that indolence which you know is so natural to me I had neglected to write sooner so was disappointed of fulfilling my engagement.

The fortifications are going on briskly at New London and Groton—I hear at Stonington they are preparing to make the mos. vigorous defence.

James Hilhouse writes me they are preparing to give them a suitable reception at New Haven. The assembly is now sitting —nothing of their doings have as yet transpired but it is said the Governor called them together to see what shall be done with some Tories who are said to be troublesome in the Western part of the Colony— you know they are plenty there—

We hear that a number of the settlers on the Susquehannah purchase are taken prisoners by the Pennymites. That assembly have taken up the matter and seem determined to proceed to bloodshed. A sad Omen to the happy union that has as yet subsisted between the Colonies. Could our internal enemies wish for a more favorable event on their side—

I make no doubt of its being a plan of the Tory party in the Pennsylvania assembly. What will be the event, I know not, but

hope the, all-wise disposer of affairs will not suffer it to proceed to a rupture between the Two Colonies.

I am now Trespassing on my school hours so must conclude your's

ELIHU MARVIN.

P. S. Miss Polly's complits to Mr. Hale. —A letter would not be disagreeable.

Robert Latimer to Nathan Hale at Camp.

DR. SIR,

As I think myself under the greatest obligations to you for your care and kindness to me, I should think myself very ungratefull if I neglected any opportunity of expressing my gratitude to you for the same. And I rely on that goodness I have so often experienced to overlook the deficiencies in my Letter which I am sensible will be many as maturity of judgment is wanting and tho' I have been so happy as

to have been favoured with your instructions, you can't, Sir, expect a finish'd letter from one who has as yet practised but very little this way, especially with persons of your nice discernment.

Sir, I have had the pleasure of hearing by the soldiers which is come home, that you are in health, tho' likely to be deserted by all the men you carried down with you, which I am very sorry for as I think no man of any spirit would desert a cause in which we are all so deeply interested. I am sure was my Mammy willing I should prefer being with you to all the pleasures which the company of my Relations can afford me.

I am with respect yr Sincere
friend & very H'ble St.
ROBT LATIMER.

Decbr. 20, 1775.

Timothy Dwight to Hale at Camp.

Dear Sir,

The many civilities I have already received at your hands, embolden me to trouble you with the inclos'd. The design you will learn from a perusal of it. As such a publication ("The Conquest of Canaan") must be founded on an extensive subscription, I find myself compelled to ask the assistance of my friends. To a person of Mr. Hale's character (motive of friendship apart) fondness for the liberal arts would be a sufficient apology for this application. As I was ever unwilling to be under even necessary obligations, it would have been highly agreeable could I have transacted the whole business myself. Since that is impossible, I esteem myself happy in reflecting that the Person who may confer

this obligation is a Gentleman of whose politeness and benevolence I have already experienced so frequent and undoubted assurances. If you will be so kind, my Dear Sir, as to present the inclos'd to those Gentlemen & Ladies of the circle with which you are connected, whom you may think likely to honour the poem with their encouragement, and return it with their Names, by a convenient opportunity, it will add one more to the many instances of esteem with which you have obliged your very sincere Friend,

and most Humble Servant

TIMOTHY DWIGHT, Jun.

MR. NATHAN HALE.

Feb. 20, 1776.

Com's to Capt. Hull, Mr. E. Hunt'g (Lieut. Ebenezer Huntington) & the rest of my acquaintance in Camp.

I would beg the favor of you to forward

a letter which will be delivered to you by Capt Perit for Doctr Bracket of Portsmouth, as you have connections there— You may probably do it without inconvenience.

Elihu Marvin to Hale at Camp.

Norwich, 11th Jne 1776.

Kind Sr,

Am much obliged for your particular history of the adventure aboard the prize; wish you would acquaint me with every incident of good or ill fortune which befalls you in your Course of life. The whole journal I hope sometime or other to peruse. You are sensible that I am not in a way to met with adventure news or interesting. Teaching, scolding and floging is the continual round. I am surprised when I reflect on my situation; once I could enter my school and spend

my hours with pleasure, but them scenes are now past. In short I have come to be one of your fretting, teazing pedagogues and think hard of quiting. For these some months I have ben like a person half distracted. I know not what to do with myself. I think of this, that and the other calling and know not which to prefer; then my bleeding country awakens my attention and seems to demand me in the field. . . .

My hearty prayer to God for my country is that he would preserve peace and harmony among ourselves. I greatly fear some of America's greatest and most dangerous enemies are such as think themselves her best friends. In what other light can we consider such men as profess themselves firm friends to her cause and yet are spiriting up their neighbors to fall on the Merchant and compel him to sell his own goods

at their own price. Had we virtue to deny ourselves our foolish passions and assist each other to the end I think we need not fear the Boasted power of Britain with all her train of Confederate mercenaries. . . .

E. MARVIN.

N. B.—Nevins is on the hill every night. Polly says she writes by him. The Ladies are all in good spirits.

Ezra Selden to Hale at New London.

ROXBURY CAMP, Jne 25th, 1775.

SIR

I have just remembrance of my engagement to you as well as to Numbers of others which I cannot fulfill. We came into Roxbury on Sunday about Five o'clock, they have been firing upon Roxbury a great part of Saturday. The number of those slain in battle between Putnam and the Gagites is uncertain—By Letters from

Gentlemen in Boston Gage had his Army Sixteen hundred worse than before the Engagement. . . .

The Soldiers live in houses as many as can & more also But are not so healthy as those in Tents of which number we are. . . .

EZRA SELDEN.

THE END.